

THE TIMES
Saturday

Blue...
The journey of a lifetime
around Australia
... remembered...
The scandal of the men
who were shot at dawn

... hills
The best of shopping in
Hampstead and Highgate
Happy...
John Parker celebrates
the village cricket final at
Lord's
... highways
Your chance to win a
Ford Sierra XR4i

Irish police
free kidnap
victims

Mr Richard Hill and his
daughter, Diane, relatives of an
informer, who were threatened
with death by their Irish
National Liberation Army kidnapers,
were rescued after a
police raid in Donegal. Shots
were fired as the Special Task
Force freed the kidnap victims
and there were two car chases
along mountainous roads. A
search failed to find the
terrorists. Page 2

Space war ban
President Andropov of the
Soviet Union proposed a
maratorium on anti-satellite
weapons in space provided the
United States respond in kind.
He told US senators that super
power relations were tense. Page 5

Rent debts rise
Rent arrears on council houses
have now reached record levels
throughout the country. In
London, about 365,000 tenants
were said to be in debt last year.
Page 3

Nkomo appeal
Mr Joshua Nkomo was
welcomed by 5,000 supporters
when he returned to his political
stronghold of Bulawayo. He
urged them to "pull together to
make our nation one". Page 5

Poll bloodshed
Thirty-three people were killed,
309 arrested, and 26 houses
burnt in a week of election
violence in the western Nigerian
state of Oyo, the Nigerian news
agency reported.

Polls put off, page 4

Pevsner dies
Sir Nikolaus Pevsner, the
architectural historian and
author of a 46-volume guide to
English buildings, died at his
home in Hampstead, London.
Obituary, page 10

Coin sales drop
Sales of Kugeraards in July
were 20 per cent below those in
the same month last year and
more than a third down on June.
Dealers blamed gold's flat
performance. Page 13

Greenham fury
A Greenham Common peace
protester threatened a hunger
strike when she was jailed for
contempt amid chaotic scenes at
Newbury Magistrates' Court.

Money rates slow, page 13

Unions prepare for
battle over
17,000 rail jobs

By Paul Routledge, Labour Editor

Railway union leaders yesterday
signalled their intention to
resist British Rail's new five-
year corporate plan, which
envisages a further cutback of
17,000 jobs and the closure of
1,900 "surplus" track miles.

But their hostility was muted
and there is no immediate
threat of a strike over British
Rail's plans to reduce by 25 per
cent its reliance on government
subsidies in the period up to
1988. Sir Peter Parker, the
outgoing British Rail chairman,
predicted that the unions would
accept the proposals.

Mr Ray Buckton, general
secretary of the Associated
Society of Locomotive
Engineers and Firemen, said his
members would resist "anything
that regards the quality of
the service or the working
conditions of those in the
industry".

Mr Jimmy Knapp, the National Union of
Railwaymen general secretary,
argued: "It looks as though the
intention is to solve the
industry's problems on the
backs of the workforce".

But Sir Peter, who ends his
seven-year chairmanship in
three weeks, defended the plan
saying: "I accept that change is
very difficult and awkward. But
we have lost about 200 people a
week from this system for some
time. The number we are
talking about over the next five
years is actually less than we
have lost over the last few years."

"The way to secure future jobs
in the industry is to see that
change happens. While that
may be troublesome, I have
every confidence that the

Board intends to reduce man-
power more quickly. The last
five-year plan which proposed a
reduction of 38,000 posts by
1985 will be exceeded by nearly
4,000 and a further 7,000 posts
will be saved in the remaining
three years of the plan. Corpor-
ate payroll numbers, already
down by 55,500 since 1975, will
fall by a further 25,900 by the
end of 1988. The railways will
then employ only 142,000

There is some suspicion in
union circles that the plan, a
much shorter document than
expected, may not be the full
story and that further proposals
may be in hand for presentation
to the Secretary of State for
Transport.

Much of the 1,900 miles
threatened as "no longer essential
to the running of the railway" is
already out of use or used
only by freight trains.

To move into profit from

1983, the British Railways

jobs are due to be phased out
through the Aslef leader insisted
that British Rail is asking
footplate men at depots such as
Euston to work overtime
because of a shortage of train
crews. "Not only will our
members be thrown on the scrap heap, but the service will
suffer."

The protest is likely to be
confined to that level at least for
some weeks. The two sides are
to begin talks on the corporate
plan in mid-September.

Streamlined Science, page 4

Leading article, page 9

Shares set
record for
fourth day

By Philip Webster, Political Reporter

Dr David Owen yesterday
stepped into the Liberal Party
camp with the news that he
was to stand against the dollar in
volatile currency markets yester-
day.

The stock market moved
sharply higher after an initial
rise on Wall Street. The FT
index of 30 leading shares rose
to 741.1 before closing at 738.9,
a rise on the day of 2.9. It was
its fourth successive day of
record closes.

With the dollar well below its
recent highs, sterling closed up
1.05 cents at \$1.5255 and was
also firmer against continental
currencies. Its trade-weighted
value gained 0.3 to 85.5.

There was also comfort for
the City on the outlook for
interest rates as the Treasury
assured financial markets that
rapid growth in money supply
should ease.

Figures from the Bank of
England confirmed some ske-
leeming in money growth,
although it is still well above
target, and this has helped to
dampen any remaining fears
that domestic interest rates
might have to rise soon.

However, other government
indicators published yesterday
provide evidence that the
economic recovery is sluggish.
The longer leading cyclical
indicator, which charts move-
ments in the economy a year
ahead, scarcely moved between
April and July.

Mr Owen's remarks came in a
radio interview in which he
made clear, in the strongest
terms he has used, his opposition
to a merger with the
Liberals. What came out of a
merger, he said, was not a
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"foggy" party.

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by those opposed to a merger.

But in what Liberals were
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Shots as police rescue informer's relatives under INLA death threat

From Richard Ford, Belfast

Terrorists fired shots at police officers as they fled after two Irish National Liberation Army kidnap victims were freed unharmed yesterday. The police, acting on information, had raided a remote to Donegal village at dawn.

Officers of the republic's Special Task Force stormed a house on the outskirts of Cottabork and found Mr Richard Hill, aged 50, and his daughter Diane, aged 13, asleep on the floor of a bedroom with its windows nailed.

The gang, which had held the pair since abducting them from a holiday home at the beginning of the month, fled from the five-bedroom house only 30 minutes before the police raid. They had been kidnapped by the IRA in an attempt to stop an informer, Harry Kirkpatrick, giving evidence against 18 people.

But the terrorists are still holding his wife, Elizabeth, whom they have threatened to kill unless he retracts his statements. Mr Hill is the stepfather of Mr Kirkpatrick.

Four vehicles were hijacked by the gang, which was believed to have 10 members. There were two high-speed chases along the winding and mountainous roads of the wild country on Donegal's north-west coast.

Two men were detained in a stolen car after one chase and

last night they were being held under the republic's Offences against the State Act at Letterkenny police station. One is believed to be from Northern Ireland.

In another chase, a gunman jumped from a stolen car and opened fire on a pursuing police car with an Armaite rifle hitting and puncturing its tyres. The police returned fire but no one was hit and the stolen car sped off, and was found abandoned in Buncrana. The men then hijacked another vehicle, which the police were still searching for last night.

The rest of the gang in two other hijacked cars escaped despite a police search throughout the county, which was helped by the Army Air Corps and involved sealing off many roads.

Mr Hill telephoned his wife, Eileen, at her home in west Belfast at 7am telling her and a family friend that he and Elizabeth would be "executed" shortly was broadcast.

Mr Hill appealed for his wife to be freed.

At a court in Le Havre yesterday reversed a decision releasing on remand one of two Frenchmen arrested on Friday after a supply of arms and munitions was discovered on board a lorry bound for the Irish Republic (Agence France Presse reports).

The court overruled a decision by an examining magistrate to authorize release under strict police supervision. The other Frenchman is still in custody and is expected to be questioned next week.

Shore implacable on EEC

By Philip Webster, Political Reporter

Mr Peter Shore confirmed his position last night as the most implacable opponent of the European Community among the Labour Party's leadership contenders.

Although Mr Roy Hattersley and Mr Neil Kinnock have said during the leadership campaign that the party should drop its commitment to withdraw, and even Mr Eric Heffer has said it should keep its options open, Mr Shore said that it would be "ridiculous, even farcical" for Labour to reverse its EEC policy.

The Shadow Chancellor, who has made strong calls for the party to rewrite its policies on other issues, notably defence, stopped short of an outright declaration that Britain should withdraw, but he said that the European Communities Act 1972, should be repealed to reclaim the powers over trade, agriculture, capital movements, and taxation ceded to the EEC under the Treaty of Accession.

He added: "This will be the point of crisis and decision. No one should doubt that this

could well mark the breaking point with the EEC."

If such a change was not accepted by the EEC, Britain should not fear to be outside, Mr Shore said. But if it was, Britain would have changed its unequal relationship with the EEC and taken a giant stride towards a looser and wider association of European states.

The speech, in Wakefield, emphasized throughout Mr Shore's belief that international problems required policies far beyond the EEC's capacity.

In addition to the repeal of the 1972 Act, he urged a vigorous campaign for a total revision of the Treaty of Rome. "We must be prepared to consider a new treaty based more on socialism than capitalist ground rules, one that would be based upon the principles of cooperation and alliance, not on so-called Community and supranational rule."

He also proposed that the more recent institution of the so-called "summit of the seven" bringing together Britain, France, Germany, Italy, Canada, the United States and Japan should be developed.

Mr Shore said: "The EEC as a whole has failed to sustain the prosperity and employment of its member states; its influence on world economic events, most crucially on the world slump and monetary crisis has been negligible; it has shown itself to be incapable of reform and it has now reached the point where it is own internal finances are in crisis."

"As for Britain, if we add together the budget contribution, the trade deficit, the outflows of capital and the cost of a dear food policy, I defy you to find any nation that has ever inflicted so grave an injury upon itself as Britain has done in the past 10 years of its Common Market membership."

Mr Hattersley, who yesterday published his election address, said that the leadership contest was wide open and that he was in a chance. How good the chance was depended on the unions which were now polling their members.

Expulsions by Labour contested

A former Labour Lord Mayor of Bradford, one of 11 members expelled from Bradford North Labour Party on Wednesday said yesterday that he would appeal to the party's national executive.

They were expelled for not supporting the official candidate, Mr Pat Wall, a supporter of Militant, at the general election in June and for working instead for Mr Ben Ford, the former Labour MP, who stood as an independent.

Mr Eddie Newby, a party member for 39 years said: "I shall appeal and I think the others will. We claim that our support for Mr Ford was justified."

Walker lay hurt for two days

A walker missing for two days in the Lake District was found yesterday lying injured on a hillside. Mr Michael Murphy, aged 29, left home in Oxenholme, Kendal, Cumbria, on Tuesday.

Mr Murphy, who had chest and back injuries, had lain unable to move for two nights on Bowfell, near Grasmere. Later, his condition was said to be serious at West Cumberland Hospital, Whitehaven.



Lord Gormley in fair form

Lord Gormley, aged 66, the former miners' president (above), arriving home in Sandbury, Surrey, yesterday after being treated in Charing Cross Hospital for a slight stroke.

The Chartered Associations (Protection of Names and Uniforms) Act 1926

Notice is hereby given that The National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children has applied to the Under-Secretary of State, Home Office, for the making of an Order in Council under Sub-sections (1) and (2) of Section 1 of the Chartered Associations (Protection of Names and Uniforms) Act 1926 to protect the name of the Society and the following names, designations and badges used by the Society in pursuance of its Royal Charter and Supplemental Royal Charters, that is to say:-

- (a) The name "THE NATIONAL SOCIETY FOR THE PREVENTION OF CRUELTY TO CHILDREN".
- (b) The abbreviation "NSPCC".
- (c) The name "NSPCC Young League".
- (d) A badge depicting the letters "NSPCC" adjacent to the hand of an adult grasping the hand of a child.
- (e) An oval shaped badge worn without uniform with irregular edges depicting the Scales of Justice, surrounded by the words "The Prevention of Cruelty to Children" and surmounted by a coronet.
- (f) An oval shaped badge, worn without uniform, with regular edges depicting the Scales of Justice, surrounded by the words "The Prevention of Cruelty to Children" transcribed by a sword.
- (g) Any objection to the application by any person or society affected or likely to be affected by the Order may be made in writing to the Under-Secretary of State, Home Office, Room 831, 12th Sept. 1983, specifying fully the grounds for the objection.

Labour set for wrangle over NEC

By Stephen Goodwin

The Labour Party conference in October will open with a rule-book wrangle over elections to the national executive committee.

There is doubt over the eligibility of five nominees who were all defeated in the general election in June. They include Miss Joan Lester and Mrs Ann Taylor, former backbenchers, and Mr John Spellar, winner of the Northfield by-election.

The powerful arrangements committee is unhappy at the present NEC's recommendation that the five should be allowed to stand. The executive maintains that had the general election taken place after the conference they would have been eligible to stand as either MPs or prospective candidates.

Mr Wedgwood Benn is among a number of defeated MPs and candidates who are able to stand in their own right as delegates.

Mr Benn is seeking relection in the constituency section, as are two of the party leadership contenders, Mr Neil Kinnock and Mr Eric Heffer. Mr Michael Meacher, one of the candidates for the deputy leadership, is also seeking one of the seven constituency seats, and another, Mrs Gwyneth Dunwoody, is going for relection.

The party leader and deputy automatically sit on the executive committee.

A further complication for unions and local parties in deciding how to cast their votes may arise if constituency Labour parties fail to pay their affiliation fees by the postponed date of September 5.

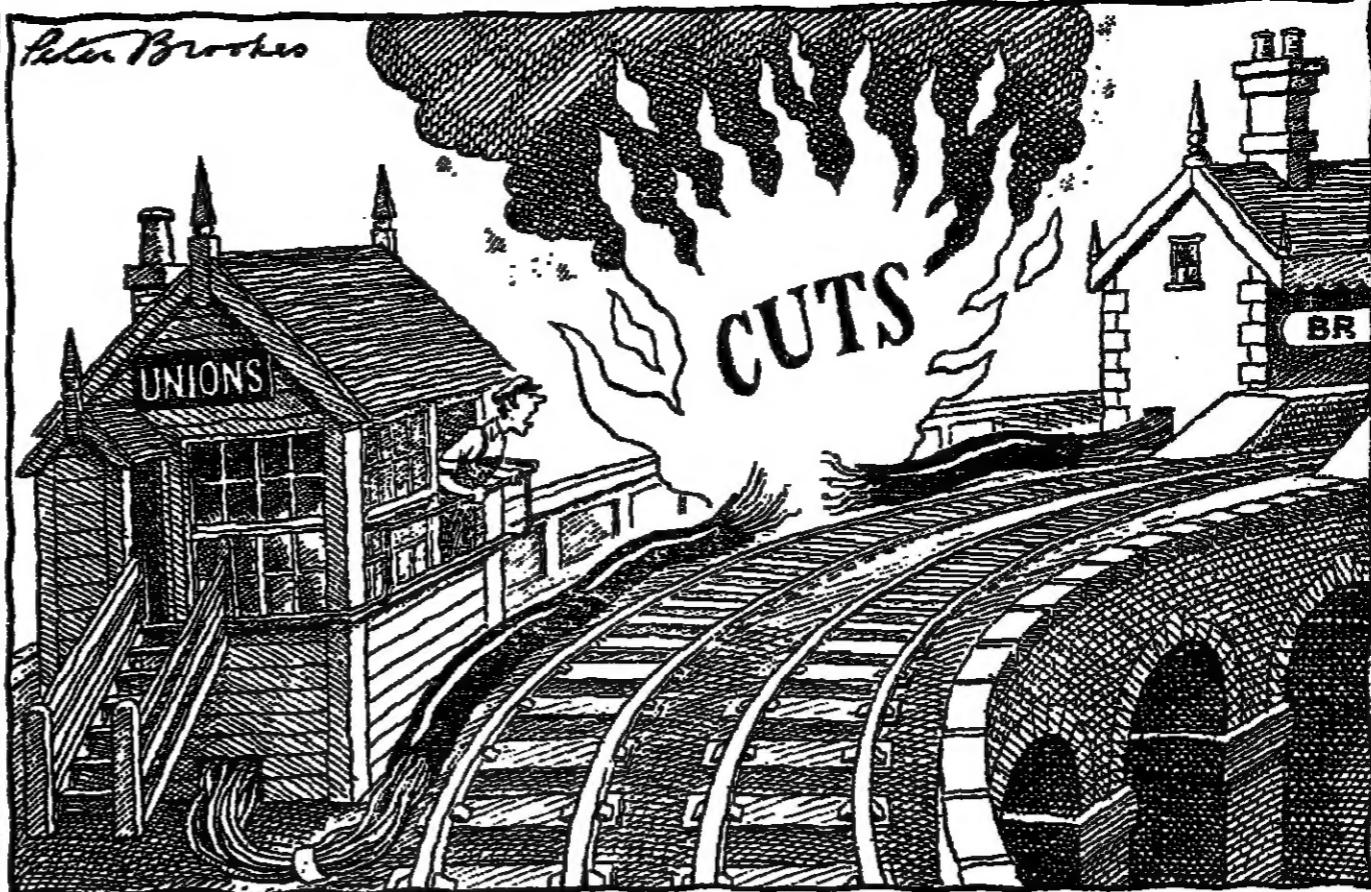
Footballer cleared

David Cooper, the Rangers and Scottish international footballer was cleared by a Falkirk court yesterday of a reckless conduct after a coin-throwing incident at the Falkirk-Rangers cup in January.

Giving his judgment after a two-day trial at Falkirk Sheriff Court, Sheriff Robert Younger said the evidence of one of the spectators was inconsistent and was not sufficiently reliable to corroborate the evidence of a policeman, Mr Cooper, of Grogan Crescent, Ladywell, Motherwell, denied throwing a coin from the playing area towards the spectators, injuring a boy.

Miss Isabella Forshaw, acting for two of the women, said she had been given an estimate that the damage to the aircraft was £250,000.

The women say the paint



Workers to hear report of BL talks

Shop stewards at the British Leyland factory in Bathgate, West Lothian, have arranged a mass meeting today with the 1,300 shop floor workers to give them a report on discussions held with company officials in London on Wednesday.

Mr Jim Swan, shop stewards' chairman, said yesterday: "We will be putting a recommendation to the members".

A £20m initial investment is to be made at Bathgate for the development of a new engine in collaboration with Cummins, an American company. But because of a slump in lorry sales, more than 400 redundancies were announced last month for Bathgate, to take effect between September and the end of this year.

● TOKYO (AFP) - Workers

TUC and Tebbit break the ice

By David Feitoff, Labour Correspondent

in the near future," he said.

Mr Tebbit still hoped that the unions would talk to him about his proposals for further trade union reforms which are likely to be introduced next year.

The breaking of the ice in relations between unions and Mr Tebbit was concentrated yesterday on the issue of allowances paid to youngsters on the £1,000m Youth Training Scheme but after the 90-minute meeting it was clear that TUC leaders were encouraged to hold further talks with the Minister.

Mr Tebbit said after the meeting that he welcomed a "more realistic view" by the TUC which he said resulted from the general election result.

"Until the general election they entertained some hopes that a Labour government would be returned but I think that they have probably taken the realistic view about the return of a Labour government

index-linking of the allowance paid by employers. Government, the unions in the report last year that formed the basis for the scheme.

The TUC delegation complained that Mr Tebbit's refusal to increase the allowance, against the advice of the Manpower Services Commission which operated the scheme, could impair the independence of the commission, but replied that he had the final decision on the level of the allowances.

The unions also pressed for an increase in the allowance paid to youngsters who had to travel to attend training centres and he promised to consider their views before reaching a decision.

The meeting was the first between the TUC and Mr Tebbit since he produced his Green Paper for further cuts on the trade union movement in December 1981.

Final plea to save coke works

By Paul Routledge

Labour Editor

Miners' leaders yesterday appealed to the National Coal Board not to close two coking coal

plants in South Wales and Durham with the loss of nearly 500 jobs.

One of the two plants, Coddene near Pontypridd, employing 225 men, is making a profit but the coal board wants to close it because the market for foundry coke has shrunk by 75 per cent over the past decade. Its shutdown is opposed by managers as well as the workforce.

The other plant, Fishburn in Durham, employing 233 men, faces closure because of the fall in demand for coking coal which has driven it marginally into the loss-making category.

The Coal Board said it would announce a decision on the two "final appeals" in due course by the General Medical Council. The moves follow numerous complaints about botched cosmetic surgery and high fees.

Doctors who perform cosmetic surgery without the proper training or skill risk being struck off under tough new rules published yesterday by the General Medical Council.

The Coal Board said it would rationalise its coking coal

Investigation sought into £365,000 Meriden loan

From Arthur Osman, Birmingham

machines each costing £1,460.

He said answers were required to several questions including ones concerning the monitoring of the loan.

Other questions concerned the absence so far of legal action to recover money, the fact that outside solicitors and accountants handled certain matters instead of the appropriate county department, and degree of awareness of the county finance committee about the whole matter.

Mr Osman said that an earlier loan of £150,000 to the cooperative by the county's enterprise board had been repaid.

He said that the loan covered the intended manufacture of 250

Cosmetic surgery warning

Doctors who perform cosmetic surgery without the proper training or skill risk being struck off under tough new rules published yesterday by the General Medical Council.

The moves follow numerous complaints about botched cosmetic surgery and high fees.

One unscrupulous clinic is reported to have charged a woman £1,500 to remove a mole in a 15-minute operation

Another woman found she could not close her eyes after spending nearly £1,000 to have bags removed, while a stomach-flattening operation left another patient's abdomen looking like "demented truffles".

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Council concern grows as rent arrears reach record levels

By David Walker, Local Government Correspondent

Councils are owed record amounts in unpaid rent and housing managers are increasingly worried by arrears which in some areas total as much as 15 per cent of rent income.

In Newcastle upon Tyne, arrears grew by 27 per cent between March, last year, and March, this year. In Birmingham, they are estimated at £10m out of total rent income of £142m. In Liverpool, traditionally an area with high arrears, the figure is more than 11 per cent of rent income - down from the record 15.5 per cent in 1981-82, when a prolonged strike by typists threw the system into disarray.

Some of the worst arrears have accumulated in London, where recent sharp rent rises were, in the words of one housing manager, the "last straw" for many tenants. During last year arrears in Newham increased by 80 per cent. At the end of the year, arrears in London totalled more than £80m.

An unpublished survey prepared for the Association of London Borough Housing

Officers found that, by the end of last year about 300,000 tenants in the capital were in debt to their council landlords.

In the Labour-controlled borough of Lambeth, 30,000 of 45,000 tenants were in arrears last winter; half of Canada's tenants owed back rent. The problem is not confined to Labour areas. One third of Harrow's tenants were in arrears, and 24,000 of Wandsworth's 38,000 tenants. Both boroughs are Conservative-controlled.

The report, written by Mr Jim Draper, of the Housing department, depicts a crisis, which has probably worsened since the survey was carried out. In the North-east and North-west a comparable picture has emerged from inquiries by *The Times*.

In Newcastle upon Tyne, where rents have been increased by more than the retail price index, arrears amounted to 2.9 per cent of rent totals in 1981-82, but were 3.7 per cent by the end of 1982-83. These figures relate to present tenants; a further £500,000 is owed by

people who have since moved out.

A council official pointed to the growth in long-term unemployment in trying to explain the rise; the government's new housing benefit system for low-income tenants introduced in April appears to have made no difference to the problem.

Birmingham City Council blamed the sharp increase in arrears last autumn on a strike at a local Department of Health and Social Security office which delayed payments of benefits.

According to Mr Draper's report on London, which draws on evidence from all the boroughs, the big growth of arrears has little to do with the absolute level of rents but rather with recent increases which since 1980 have pushed rents up by more than 70 per cent.

• Birmingham City Council has recruited a private debt-collection agency to try to track down tenants who vanish leaving behind large arrears. The decision was taken after the council had to write off £2m in unrecovered rents last year.

Football clubs given stiffer crowd rules

By Kenneth Goering

The 92 Football League clubs were given yesterday a list of crowd control measures to be put into effect from the start of the new season next Saturday. Clubs will face strong disciplinary action if they fail to implement the mandatory measures.

Welcoming the recommendations, which include strong emphasis on forward planning, on the control of alcohol sales in grounds, and improved liaison with the police, Mr Neil Macfarlane, Minister for Sport, said that spectator violence was "an unacceptable problem that besets our national game".

A liaison group, including government departments, the football bodies, British Rail, and the Association of Chief Police Officers drew up the present recommendations after being set up in 1981 to work with the Spanish authorities to try to prevent crowd trouble at the World Cup finals in Spain last year.

The most important aspect of the guidelines is that for the first time clubs will be ordered to take certain crowd-control measures. Others are strongly recommended.

There are nine mandatory measures. Clubs must:

Make adequate arrangements to segregate rival supporters;

Undertake detailed liaison with the police, the opposing club, and rail and coach operators at least 10 days before a match to determine movement of spectators and arrangements (in case of FA or League Cup matches consideration must be given to replay arrangements);

Ensure that terraces are kept free of objects that could be used as missiles;

Arrange, where practicable, for visiting supporters to use turnstiles nearest to coach parks;

Avoid all-night ticket queuing; Ensure that drinks are sold in plastic containers;

Liaise to ensure proper deployment of stewards, who should be properly trained and regularly briefed, conspicuously dressed, and easily identifiable;

Also liaise to arrange escort from stations and coach parks of visiting supporters to and from ground;

Arrange police surveillance at turnstiles to prevent missiles and alcohol, drinks being taken into ground.

The last four measures are mandatory with the police.

The compulsory measures on alcohol are reinforced by a strong recommendation that the sales of alcohol within stadiums should be restricted or, on occasions, banned, except in approved areas.

Clubs are also recommended to take legal steps to ban known troublemakers and co-operate as closely as possible with magistrates. League players and officials should, the guidelines say, appeal in programmes and over public address systems for good behaviour.

Closely relationships with supporters' clubs are urged, with encouragement to supporters to travel to away matches in characterised, stewarded, responsible groups.

Mr Macfarlane also referred to powers available to the courts to deal firmly with offenders and drew attention to by-laws banning alcohol on trains carrying supporters.

Physics A level at grade A for girl of 12

Ruth Lawrence (below), aged 12, who becomes the country's youngest university student in October, learned that she had passed yet another examination.

The girl, who has never been to school and had three A levels in mathematics in the top grade, has now passed physics, and again at grade A.

She also achieved a grade one in the special paper of the examination. Her father, Mr Harry Lawrence, a computer consultant, of Birstley, Huddersfield, West Yorkshire, said: "We are particularly delighted with this as it was a very difficult paper".

Airlines likely to scrap Atlantic standby

Standby air fares across the Atlantic are expected to be scrapped by a new accord among airlines likely to be announced this weekend (David Hewson writes).

They will be replaced by a low-price winter advance return between London and New York for under £250, while other transatlantic air fares are likely to rise by between 2 and 3 per cent.

Pan American Airways blocked the move at a session of nine members of the International Air Transport Association last week, and the fares are to be voted upon by the association's 55 members who are expected to endorse them.

British Airways, British Caledonian, and several American airlines have already supported the new fare structure. Even with the increase, transatlantic fares will be rising more slowly than the rate of inflation, a British Airways spokesman said last night.

Pan American said that it would be abstaining from the vote but expected change the new fares.

House prices show 5% increase

By Baron Phillips, Property Correspondent

House prices rose by almost 5 per cent in the second quarter of this year, the largest three-monthly increase in four years, the Abbey National Building Society said yesterday.

The society says the rise signals a return of market confidence, but predictions of a price boom probably overstates the position. "Worse, they may run the danger of becoming self-fulfilling prophecies by encouraging sellers to add, say, 10 per cent to the price of their home because of rumour or speculation", the society said.

According to the Abbey, the average cost of buying a home is now £27,422, more than £1,200 higher than in the first quarter of this year.

On these figures, the annual rate of increase in house prices

is just under 10 per cent, its highest for two years. But the society has given a warning against further sharp price rises this year because most buying is undertaken in the first three months.

Southern England has led the way in price increases, although Wales reflected the largest quarterly rise with the cost of buying a home advancing by almost 8 per cent. Average price rises in the Greater London area were 7.5 per cent. In the South-east record of an increase of just over 6 per cent.

It now costs an average £40,446 to buy a home in the Greater London area compared with £30,718 in the West Midlands, the area with the lowest prices in Britain.

The average price of an acre of farmland in Britain has risen above £2,000 for the first time, according to a report published yesterday.

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HOME NEWS

3

Koo Stark fails to reveal anything



BBC service for computers

By Bill Johnstone, Electronics Correspondent

The BBC is expected to begin regular transmission of programs for home computers from next month on its teletext service, Ceefax.

The programme, in which Miss Stark was interviewed by Michael Parkinson, was shown on Channel 10 at 9.30pm.

One of the conditions for the interview was that it would not cover her private life, particularly her relationship with Prince Andrew.

At present, seven programs are being transmitted. Next month that number will be increased and the adaptors that

are required to "lift" the program from the Ceefax broadcast, will be made available.

The program will be free to the user, but the Acorn adaptor is expected to retail for about £200, the dozen or so programs available will be changed every two weeks.

In the future, computer programs testing pupils' attention to a specific school broadcast may be transmitted on Ceefax for use by teachers on school computers.

This new market of "telesoftware" is being investigated by several companies prepared to offer a similar service on cable television.

The home computer software division of the company has been writing and testing the programs for Atari, Commodore, and Texas Instrument machines.

The programs, which include educational ones as well as video games, would

be "pumped" down cable and to the home computer, connected to the television, would select a program suitable for the particular computer.

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British Rail promises streamlined service and to reduce its costs

By John Young

A highly optimistic assessment of the future of British Rail, in contrast to the gloomy projections of the recent Serpell report, is put forward in the British Railways Board's corporate plan for 1983-88, published yesterday.

The plan envisages no drastic changes in the size of the rail network, proposing a reduction of only about 1,900 track miles. Instead, it predicts an increased volume passenger and freight traffic which, combined with manpower reductions of 17,000 and other productivity gains, will much reduce the need for government grants.

"The aim of the plan is to take the railway out of recession through increased volume and improved labour and other productivity, leading to a reduction in real terms of the cost to the taxpayer," it says.

The board said yesterday that it expected to move into profit from 1985 onwards, with group profits of more than £90m by 1988.

For the current year it estimates the railways' operating losses at £960m which, offset by a public service operation (PSO) grant from the Government and local authorities of £943m, leaves a deficit of £17m.

But by 1988 it expects to have reduced the losses of £639m. Assuming a PSO grant of £708m, that would leave an operating surplus of £69m and, after taking other activities into account, would be translated into a consolidated profit of £93m.

The plan bases its assumptions on the expectation of big improvements in customer service and competitiveness, operational and administrative efficiency, and labour productivity, including a further reduction of 17,000 jobs.

It avoids the question of future fares but says that "growth in passenger volume must be won in a highly competitive market by improving product quality and per-

formance and through marketing initiatives".

Railway investment is expected to increase by half in 1985 over the present level of about £300m. There will be a big recovery of the backlog of maintenance and renewal of infrastructure over the next five years, the plan says.

There will be much investment in main line, suburban and provincial rolling stock renewal, and improved stan-

Route miles
Disused lines 122
Freight only 145
Passenger lines 66
Second Ladybank & Hills junction, 15½ miles.

North-east: Northallerton to Eaglescliffe 16 miles, Worth Road junction 5 miles; Castleside junction to Goose 1½ miles, and Gledhill Road, Leeds, 1½ miles.

North-west: Garron junction to Hall Royal, Manchester, 9½ miles; Brindie Heath to Agrocroft junction, Manchester, ½ miles; and Bidston, Dee junction to Seacombe, Cheshire, ½ mile.

Midlands: Nuneaton Midland to Nuneaton Abbey, 1½ miles.

Western: Thimbleby junction to Bradford Royal, 3½ miles; Westbury avoider line, ½ miles; and France railway line, 2 miles.

London: Old Oak Common to North Pole junction, ½ mile.

Railway passenger lines

Birchdale - Appleby
Marylebone - Northolt junction
Henley-in-Arden - Breamer junction.

ards of punctuality, reliability, cleanliness, and information. About £30m a year will be spent on station refurbishment.

On the freight side, the board intends to withdraw the loss-making Wagonload system, and to concentrate on the Speedlink and Freightliner services. Level crossings will continue to be modernized as quickly as local authority consultation procedures permit.

As against the drastic cuts in route mileage suggested in the Serpell report, the plan proposes a reduction of only about 1,900

Rail delays to last until Monday

By a Staff Reporter

British engineers will be working throughout the weekend to try to restore normal services between London and the South-east by Monday.

Services have been disrupted since Tuesday when a fire in signalling cables led to hundreds of cancellations on Wednesday affecting 300,000 travellers. British Rail said yesterday: "We are not looking for a 100 per cent service until Monday.

Services have been resumed in Sussex and other areas to the north of London, but passengers in Kent and south-east London are still receiving a skeleton service.

Yesterday 300 rush-hour trains were cancelled. Many commuters were forced to travel by car, bus, and underground and British Rail is appealing to them to continue using alternative transport until after the weekend.

Trains were running yesterday at half-hour intervals, instead of every 15 minutes, on lines from Charing Cross to Gillingham and Orpington, and Cannon Street to Dartford via Greenwich.

Lines between Hither Green and Dartford, Lewisham and Dartford, Grove Park and Bromley North, and Orpington and Sevenoaks were badly affected: mainline services from Folkestone and Dover, normally finishing at Charing Cross and Cannon Street were diverted to Victoria.

Weekend travellers to the south coast were yesterday reassured that a "service as normal as possible" will be provided.

A spokesman said: "The engineers are working flat out to repair the cables and will be working round the clock over the weekend".

They are working on more than 4,000 wires damaged when 20 signalling and telephone cables were burnt out on Tuesday night near London Bridge station.

Straw-burners criticized for inadequate control

Straw-burning and farm fires this year have "caused a catalogue of death, disaster and damage on a scale that could jeopardize the future of straw-burning," a report published yesterday said.

Farming News said: "Fire chiefs in the main grain-growing areas report a massive increase in the number of calls to straw and stubble fires that are out of control."

In North Yorkshire, the number of calls is already double that of last year, and the harvest is only half finished.

"Also in North Yorkshire, the environmental health committee is deciding whether to prosecute a farmer after a straw-burner incident was

implicated in a road accident in which two people were killed," Farming News reported.

In the same county, a load of straw being towed by a tractor caught fire in the narrow main street of Knaresborough.

In Cleveland, an eight-car collision outside Stockton was blamed on smoke from straw-burners in a field near by.

The National Farmers' Union, aware of the increasing bad publicity about straw-burning, this year revised its code to tighten controls. Fire chiefs say most farmers are keeping the code but question whether the serious nature of the incidents this year make it inadequate in a year when the countryside is so tinder dry".

Asbestos rules worry unions

By David Nicholson-Lord

A serious split between representatives of employers and unions on the Health and Safety Commission, the organization responsible for workers' health, is expected next week over calls for a formal ban on new blue and brown asbestos products and a further tightening of safety rules on the use of white asbestos.

Employers' representatives are likely to disown a report by a senior Health and Safety Executive official which is strongly critical of present enforcement procedures and suggests cutting exposure limits to a tenth of present values. According to one trade union official, the report reinforces union fears about standards and drives a "coach and horses" through the executive's procedures.

The report, from a working party chaired by Mr Stephen

Grant, a factory inspector and area director for the executive in Scotland, has not yet been published. But the executive has decided to release a medical report calling for the ban on blue and brown asbestos and a curtailment in the use of all other types.

Both studies were called for a year ago when the commission decided on big reductions in exposure limits. These took effect in January and gave Britain one of the most rigorous standards in the world.

But the commission will also be considering at next Tuesday's meeting a draft directive from the EEC setting less exacting standards for asbestos in the workplace.

Mr Richard Eberle, a member of the commission and deputy director of social affairs at the Confederation of British

Industry, said the CBI welcomed the directive. It took the view that it was "better to have a directive applied throughout the Community at relatively low levels than no directive at all".

The proposed EEC levels are 0.5 fibre per millilitre for blue asbestos and one fibre for all others. In Britain, the new levels are 0.2 for blue, 0.5 for brown and one for others - largely white. But the "action levels" suggested by the Grant report would reduce the white asbestos limit to 0.1 of a fibre.

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Bar massacre driver charged

Queensland crisis forces election

From Tony Dubon, Melbourne

The National Party-Liberals coalition which has ruled Queensland for 26 years has ended and Mr Johannes Bjelke-Petersen now heads a minority National Party government.

The Premier announced yesterday that Sir James Ramsay, the State Governor, had accepted the resignation of the seven Liberal Party members of the Cabinet. When they were first submitted on Monday Sir James rejected the resignations on the advice of Mr Bjelke-Petersen.

The Premier, an ultra-right-winger who has led the coalition for 15 years, is expected to name six National Party backbenchers to replace the Liberals. Mr Bjelke-Petersen is expected to announce the date for a state election on Monday and observers believe that he will opt for October. It is unlikely that the state parlia-

ment will meet before polling day.

Mr Bjelke-Petersen predicted that his party would emerge as the only true anti-Labour party in Australia.

"There is no government or party in power other than the National Party in Australia; that's not a socialist government or with a socialist background or policy. We are the last front against the forces of socialism," he said.

The Queensland crisis began two weeks ago when Mr Terry White, then Minister for Welfare Services, and seven Liberal backbenchers crossed the floor and voted with the Labour opposition. Mr White was dismissed by Dr Lew Edwards, the Liberal Leader. In the ensuing leadership battle Mr White became party leader after Dr Edwards stepped down.

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Russia offers freeze in space

From Richard Owen, Moscow

President Andropov took the initiative on arms control yesterday by imposing a moratorium on anti-satellite weapons in space provided the United States did the same.

During a meeting with a visiting delegation of Democratic Senators, Mr Andropov said that the Soviet Union assumed the commitment not to be the first to put into outer space any type of anti-satellite weapon. He said this amounted to a moratorium by Russia on such launches "for the entire period during which other states including the US refrain from stationing in outer space anti-satellite weapons of any kind".

Although Mr Andropov described this as an "exceptionally important decision", diplomats pointed out that the Soviet Union is believed to have already tested so-called "killer satellites" and laser weapons in space. "The proposal sounds more convincing than it really is", one diplomat said.

According to Tass, Mr Andropov told the Senators that Moscow wanted complete prohibition on the testing and deployment of all space-based weapons designed to hit targets on Earth. He said his "radical

proposal" covered not only the elimination of existing anti-satellite systems but also a ban on development of new ones.

Diplomats said the initiative was a step in the right direction, but had little to do with the central issues in either the medium-range missile talks or the Strategic Arms Reductions Talks (Star). It was partly based on Russia's fear that it could not match American space weapons developments.

During the meeting, Senator Patrick Leahy of Vermont told Mr Andropov that there was widening distrust among both democrats and Republicans over Soviet arms activities.

Senator Leahy said the political basis for American observance of the SALT 2 treaty, which America has not ratified, was being weakened, and a climate was being created which would make Senate approval of any future arms agreement much more difficult.

The Soviet leader said that relations between Moscow and Washington were tense in almost every field, but not by Soviet choice. In a game without rules, it would be a dangerous miscalculation to try

to gain superiority over Russia at a time of tensions, Mr Andropov said.

Much would depend on the Geneva negotiations, where an agreement before the deployment of new Nato missiles in Europe was still possible. The stationing of Pershing and cruise missiles in Europe would, however, lead to a "lethal, dangerous, new round in the arms race and would have far-reaching consequences affecting the Americas".

The Americans will also feel the difference between the situation which existed before the deployment and that which will take shape after it", Mr Andropov said ominously.

He did not, however, spell out Russia's likely response or put forward new proposals on medium-range missiles. Diplomatic sources said such moves could be expected when the talks reconvene in September after a Soviet request for an early resumption.

• WASHINGTON: Senator John Glenn, the former astronaut and a Democratic Presidential candidate, has called for an expanded US space programme, including a permanent

station in space. He said so, he said, to have a free hand to implement the full-scale plan of the Pentagon to build up the American chemical arsenal.

It was doing so, he said, to have a free hand to implement the full-scale plan of the Pentagon to build up the American chemical arsenal.

Next to blacks, Hispanics are the poorest people of the US. Their divisions are a reflection of the conflicts and differences endemic in Central and South America. Hence the Puerto Ricans in New York have little in common with Mexican farm workers in California, or with Cuban refugees in Miami.

Apart from Cubans, the Hispanics overwhelmingly vote Democrat, when they vote at all. Earlier this month, 200 Hispanic leaders throughout the US opened a national drive to register a million more of

their people to vote by next year, with the direct aim of influencing the choice of the next president.

Mr Toney Anaya, a Mexican-American who is the new Governor of New Mexico and one of the principal forces behind the registered drive,

is the most senior Hispanic official in the country. Mr Henry Cisneros, Mayor of San Antonio (both are members of the Kissinger Commission on Central America), and Mr Federico Pena, Mayor of Denver.

Their support also contributed to the victories of Governor Mark White of Texas and Mr Harold Washington, Mayor of Chicago, who is black.

There are 14.6 million



Family reunion: Mr Nkomo and his wife together again at their Bulawayo home.

5,000 welcome Nkomo in Bulawayo

From Stephen Taylor, Harare

He confirmed that the US has no plans for a significant increase in its self-imposed ceiling on the number of advisers in El Salvador – currently 55. "A good deal of training is going to be done in Honduras," he said. "That argues that you will not need more in El Salvador."

Mr Weinberger will visit Panama, El Salvador and Honduras. Panama is the headquarters of the US Southern Command, El Salvador is the principal theatre of America's anti-leftist policies, and Honduras is the site of huge US military manoeuvres that will last until next January.

Apart from meeting the military, Mr Weinberger, whose tour is from September 6 to 8, will talk to senior Government figures in the three countries. The US regards them all as important allies in its struggle to prevent the spread of Cuban and Soviet influence in Central America.

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In family style, Mr Weinberger was low-key about his forthcoming visit. He said he would be looking at the "important exercises" in Honduras, speaking to various officials of the host countries and seeking the points of view of US troops. Symbolically, however, the trip will serve as a rejection of widespread congressional demands for Washington to ease up in Central America.

There is growing alarm about the supposed passage of several Soviet-built cargo vessels towards Nicaragua, supposedly laden with arms for the Sandinista regime. Two weeks ago the US Navy hailed a Russian ship off Nicaragua and asked for its name, destination and cargo but Mr Weinberger emphasized that no Soviet vessel would be stopped.

US reconnaissance aircraft have spotted a Soviet cargo vessel in the Caribbean, and according to the Pentagon it is loaded with arms for Nicaragua.

• GUATEMALA CITY: General Oscar Humberto Mejia Victores, Guatemala's new military ruler, has said he intends to lead the country towards constitutional rule while continuing a struggle against imported foreign interests (Reuters reports).

"We must never permit foreign and alien flags to fly on our territory, imposed by those

... who serve interests which are not ours (seeking) to tie us,

like slaves, to peoples and cultures which are very different from ours," he told a student rally.

• SAN SALVADOR: El Salvador's 60-member Constituent Assembly voted unanimously to ban all armed groups outside the Army, including both leftist guerrillas and right-wing death squads (Reuters reports).

Israeli soldier killed as rockets hit camp

From Robert Fisk, Beirut

Israeli troops have been attacked again, far behind the new front line that they are building for themselves in southern Lebanon. A short barrage of Katyusha rockets – apparently fired by guerrillas near the Israeli-occupied town of Roshayya – killed one Israeli soldier and wounded three others when the missiles landed in a military camp a mile from Major Saad Haddad's south Lebanon "Capital" of Marjayoun.

The rockets were fired over a wide trajectory, some exploding 50 yards from a position manned by Norwegian troops of the United Nations force.

The Israeli camp outside Marjayoun is the largest logistic and supply base in southern Lebanon. Palestinian guerrilla leaders in Damascus have often spoken of their desire to shell it.

Reports from southern Lebanon

said that Israeli troops had closed all roads in the area and were searching a region at the foot of Mount Hermon near the Hasbaya river in the hope of finding the missile launcher.

The dead soldier, Corporal Yosef Cohen, aged 40, brought to 517 the number of Israelis to have been killed in Lebanon since Israel's invasion in June last year.

Meanwhile Israel's imminent withdrawal from the Shouf mountains was discussed yesterday between President Amin Gemayel of Lebanon and Mr Osama el-Baz, Egypt's principal envoy to Lebanon. Mr el-Baz said that Israel's partial pull-back to the Awali river should not be allowed to create a de facto partition. "The positions and military fortifications Israel is building behind the new front line in the south do not suggest a temporary presence," he said.

Both writers were urging the Government to take a liberal line in allowing new parties to be formed for the November elections. So far only parties encouraged or approved by the military regime have been able to register.

In letters to President Kenya Ervin and to Mr Buland, the Prime Minister, Mr Gallingher says PFI is damaged by the closing of Miflyer.

He said he had estimated that Israel would have needed between five and 10 years longer to build a nuclear bomb, a period which he argued would have been sufficient to use non-military means to prevent the development.

General Sagiv was speaking after announcing that he is leaving the Army. He lost his life in the fighting and also

Spy chief opposed Iraq reactor raid

From Christopher Walker, Jerusalem

The former chief of Israeli military intelligence has disclosed that he opposed the controversial bombing raid which destroyed the Iraqi nuclear reactor near Baghdad in June 1981.

His remarks were taken to indicate that he had expressed fears that Arab states might try to launch similar preemptive attacks against Israeli nuclear installations, whose heavily guarded existence in the Negev desert is an open secret.

General Sagiv was speaking after announcing that he is leaving the Army. He lost his life in the fighting and also

post as head of military intelligence because of his actions during the massacre of Palestinian refugees in the Sabra and Chatila camps last year.

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3,000 flee flood

Bombay (AP) – The Bhima river flooded the Hindu holy town of Pandharpur in Maharashtra state, forcing more than 3,000 people to flee low-lying areas.

The Hispanic vote

Traditional crop pickers of US prepare to pick the president

From Christopher Thomas Washington

Hispanic Americans, who

could have enormous political influence if they ended their interminable feuds, are watching with trepidation and wonder as United States troops pour into Central America, and that might help to unite them.

President Reagan spent a few days courted their support last week, speaking sometimes in Spanish from a prepared text. By all accounts, the result was to strengthen the overwhelming opposition of most Hispanic Americans to what he is doing in Central America.

The real fear is unrealistic though the Administration says it is – that the US will go to war in the north, and that Hispanics will be sent back to their old countries of fight brothers and cousins. Only the Cubans feel differently; they act to return with guns in hand.

Next to blacks, Hispanics are the poorest people of the US. Their divisions are a reflection of the conflicts and differences endemic in Central and South America. Hence the Puerto Ricans in New York have little in common with Mexican farm workers in California, or with Cuban refugees in Miami.

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their people to vote by next year, with the direct aim of influencing the choice of the next president.

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SPECTRUM

THE TIMES GUIDE TO CHAD

One of the world's poorest countries has become a chessboard where pieces are moved by powerful outside players. The 16-year-old civil war - an intricate and shifting patchwork of tribal and personal rivalries - now threatens to ignite fighting between the French and Libyan armies. The United States and anti-Libyan African countries wait in the wings

Stand-off in the desert

THE COUNTRY

Hole in the heart of Africa

Chad is an area of land which has never formed itself into an effective state and now barely counts as one.

Physically, politically and economically it is a vacuum at the heart of Africa which must provide a constant temptation to meddle for any even mildly voracious regime in power in the surrounding nations.

From the rugged mountains of the far north it descends into the wastes of the Sahara desert before, from about the 16th parallel beginning gradually to emerge into savannah.

The north is very thinly populated. Covering roughly half the area of the country, it contains only a little more than 2 per cent of the population, perhaps 80,000 people. They are almost entirely nomadic muslims.

The south is largely populated by the Sara people, of Bantu stock. They have a much more settled way of life, and having access to virtually the only arable land in the country, they produce the two main cash crops of cotton and groundnuts. They are predominantly either Christian or animist.

The unmetalled roads which link north with south are primarily the product of a bitter and divisive past, for until slavery was stamped out by the French they were essentially arteries for northern slave-traders to descend on the tribes of the south.

Almost no working institutions of government link these two halves of a nation created by the draughtsman who arranged the map of Africa in the wake of the departing European colonial powers. The banking system has collapsed and earlier this year the Government announced a moratorium on its debts of \$75m.

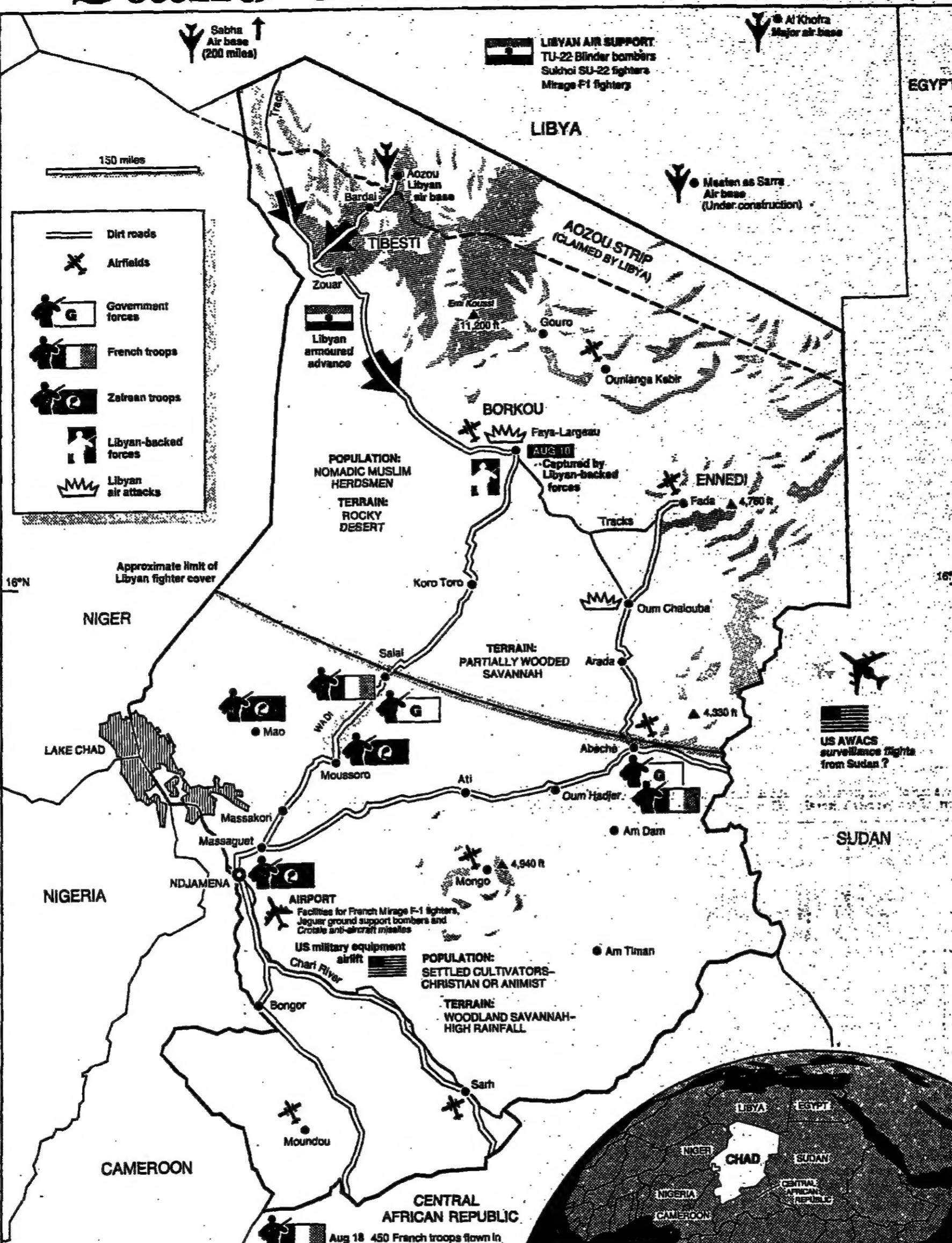
But according to World Bank statistics Chad is one of ten nations which have failed to achieve positive growth in their gross national product since 1960. And with a 2.2 per cent per capita annual average rate of decline, its record is the worst in the world.

New divisions have now arisen with the people of the north resenting the greater resources and wealth of the south. Despite this, the present struggle for power, which continues 16 years of endemic internecine warfare, is not essentially between north and south, but between two northern leaders.

These are Hissene Habré, who emerged in the mid-1970s leading northern forces in resisting the anti-Muslim tendencies of the then-government, and Goukouni Oueddei, whom he displaced as president last year. Goukouni is a son of the spiritual leader of the Toubou, the main northern tribe.

For a time they worked together in the Chad government in 1979 with Goukouni as president and Habré as defence minister. This ended with Goukouni claiming that Habré was trying to seize power with French support.

Although Libyan attitudes have wavered from time to time, it has largely, as now, supported Goukouni. Its attitude seems mainly to have been determined by the posture of the contestants in relation to Libya's claim to sovereignty over the Aozou Strip in the north, which is believed to contain uranium and other minerals, and which it has effectively controlled for a decade.



FACTS ON CHAD

Land area: Chad occupies an area of 490,000 square miles, which makes it about five times as large as the United Kingdom, almost ten times the size of England and more than twice as large as France. It is the largest country to emerge from the break-up of French Equatorial Africa.

Population: It is estimated to number about 4,500,000 people. These are heavily concentrated in the south, with the northern half having a population of only about 88,000.

Economy: According to World Bank statistics it had a per capita income in 1981 of \$110, which ranks it among the

three or four poorest countries in the world.

Life expectancy: Its population at birth has a life expectancy of only 43 years, which is low even by the standards of the poorest nations.

Food: The average daily supply of calories per head is put at only about three quarters of the estimated requirement, and, by contrast, is only half that available in Libya.

Education: Only about 15 per cent of adults are literate, which is again among the lowest levels in the world.

Health: World Bank statistics show that there is only one doctor for every 47,000 members of the population.

Brief recent history: Having been part of French Equatorial Africa, Chad gained its independence in August 1960 with Ngarte Tombalbaye as its first president. For four years after independence the three northern regions of Borkou, Ennedi and Tibesti remained under French military administration.

● In 1965 rebellion broke out following the imposition of an obligatory "national loan". Since then there have been few periods of peace.

● In 1973 Libya occupied the Aozou strip which is believed to contain deposits of uranium and manganese. In 1975 Tombalbaye was killed during a military coup.

● In 1980 civil war broke out. Despite efforts by the Organization of African Unity to stabilize the situation, President Goukouni signed a treaty of friendship with Libya and this led to up to 10,000 Libyan and Islamic Legion forces entering Chad, and Hissene Habré, who had been challenging the government was defeated.

● In 1981 President Goukouni signed an agreement with Libya for a gradual merger of the two countries. This was never put into effect, but Libyan troops remained in Chad until the arrival of an OAU peace-keeping force.

Text: Rodney Cowton
Illustration: John Grimwade

moreover... Miles Kington

Good news, there's been a disaster

Evelyn Waugh once complained that the standard of book reviewing was slipping badly. In my young days, he sighed, we never gave a bad review to a book we had not read; nowadays they are breaking even that simple little rule.

And Richard Ingram, I am afraid to say, is now breaking that rule in the field of television, giving the thumbs down in the *Spectator* (my favourite weekly) to the conversation between John Stonehouse and Anthony Clare, even though he blithely admitted not having seen the programme. I did not see the programme either, so I am sure it was excellent, if a little inconclusive.

But Richard Ingram promptly made amends by attacking the level of violence in

TV news, which seems to feed off pictures and reports of crashes, disasters, bloodbaths, corpses and drownings. I agree entirely. He objected most to the violence; I object almost more to the unawaresness of it. Sudden death is horribly important to those concerned - friends, relatives, neighbours - but horribly unimportant to the rest of us. If half a dozen people are swept to their death by an Irish wave, or burnt in a Paris dance hall, or killed in a Spanish coach crash, the only interest we can possibly have is a remote, possibly horrific, one. Yet such "news" items are regularly given the number two or three position on news programmes. A few months ago I met a BBC cameraman who had been working in a regional centre and

been sent to cover a huge fire, of a factory, I believe. The pictures were dramatic and unusually detailed, he said. They had been offered to BBC news in London. Had anyone died? they wanted to know. No, came the answer. Not interested, said London.

Another unwelcome development on the news is the increasing interest in filming mourning relatives at funerals - widows are great and children are even better. After a token shot of the coffin or casket, the camera zooms in on the suffering faces of the nearest and dearest and stays there implacably, as if to make amends for not being there when the victim himself died. Lovely stuff. But news?

I must admit that I am committing Ingram's sin here

I have not seen the programme concerned. In the last ten years I cannot recall having switched on the TV news more than three or four times, and I cannot believe that my life is any poorer for it; TV news seems to me to have all the impact of reading the headlines of a better class provincial evening paper. It does very little better than radio and a lot far worse, and none of my occasional dippings has made me change my mind.

Still, we never get anywhere by moralistic sounding off, so I have a concrete suggestion to make. Instead of mixing up death and violence with the real news, why not give them their own regular programmes? Why not start a weekly or even daily feature called *Private Funeral* for which BBC and ITV

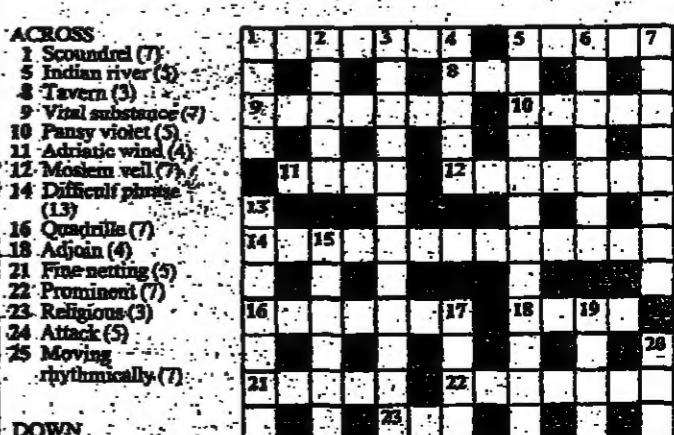
cameras could film grief and distress to their heart's content, and to which those of us who love such things could turn without having to watch boring reports from *Nicaragua* and *Chad*?

The real violence and disaster could easily be given an evening slot as well, perhaps in a feature called *Blood and Guts*, where the apparent public taste for carnage could be satisfied with anyone having to pretend it was "news". Here full treatment could be given to those disasters which the media love, especially coachloads of happy children who set out on a holiday and meet a terrible fate on a French motorway, which newspapers normally sign with the headline: "The Village that Died".

In fact - and I think this is a natural BBC idea - why not send a camera crew to go with a coachload of happy holiday-makers and *pretties* - a special crush to be filmed specially for television? This style of fictional documentary is becoming very popular, and it is about time we made a proper job of the disasters we love so much, instead of surviving there hours afterwards.

In some quarters this might be called bad taste. For my own part, I see it only as a natural development of current TV news. If paying people to die is bad taste, then it is not much worse than insisting we pay a licence to watch death on the news every night.

CONCISE CROSSWORD (No 129)



SOLUTION TO No 128
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FRIDAY PAGE

Rodney Cowton reports on the latest naval star at Dartmouth... a Wren

Down to the sea in skirts

Another bastion of male excellence and supremacy has fallen to John Knox's monstrous regiment.

At the Britannia Royal Naval College at Dartmouth, home of all that is best and brightest in naval tradition, a woman has for the first time carried off one of the top awards. At the end of July, Sarah Kahn, 23, alumna of Cheshire Girls' Grammar School and Durham University, emerged as top cadet in competition with about 80 men and 13 other women who were in their first term at Dartmouth.

She won the Rowallane Trophy, which is awarded to the officer under training who displays the greatest leadership potential in his or her first term. Not only that, but she clearly did it with style, for she also won the Pauline Doyle Trophy, which is awarded to the officer cadet of the Women's Royal Naval Service "showing the greatest prowess in parade ground training without losing her femininity". By "prowess in parade ground training" is meant the sergeant-major role of commanding a squad at square bashing.

For the WRNS cadets their first term at Dartmouth is also their last. They tend to be a few years older than the men at the college, mainly either from university or after serving in the ranks. Whereas the men will complete up to three terms, the women take up their first postings in the Royal Navy proper after one term - though not at sea. That remains a male preserve.

Sarah Kahn has emerged not merely as Third Officer Kahn, WRNS, but also with the awesome power (as the Americans say) to request that Tower Bridge be opened and closed, and with the thought that if her request is not met, Her Majesty's Board of Admiralty may well want to know the reason why. For in her first posting, which she takes up in October, she becomes Assistant Naval Liaison Officer in London. In that role she will be responsible for looking after the arrangements for the 30 to 40 British and foreign naval ships which visit London every year. Among other

things this will mean ensuring that Tower Bridge is raised when one of these vessels needs to pass through.

Sarah Kahn is just one of a number of women making an impact in the services. On August 1 *The Times* recorded that Lieutenant Ian Harper had emerged at the top of a basically masculine course for young officers in the Corps of Royal Engineers. Nine months ago Group Captain Joan Hopkins was appointed, as the first woman commander of an RAF operational station, with responsibility for the air defence of a third of the United Kingdom.

Earlier this year Squadron Leader Brenda Palmer became the first female Senior Air Traffic Control Officer at a major flying station, RAF Wittering in Cambridgeshire. Last Year Captain Marion Randall came top of an officer's course in the Royal Army Ordnance Corps.

In Second Lieutenant Sarah May, the Army has the first woman platoon commander of male Royal Army Ordnance Corps recruits undergoing basic training (square bashing again). At Portland in Dorset in the headquarters of the Flag Officer Sea Training, the operations room, has an entirely female watchkeeping team, made up of four WRNS officers and four leading Wrens.

Meanwhile, back at base, in Whitehall there is Second Officer Penny Melville-Brown, who in 1981 was the first WRNS officer to come top of the mixed junior staff course at the Royal Naval College at Greenwich.

Notwithstanding any impression that may be created by these examples, they are exceptions to the basic rule that the environment of the armed services is determinedly male, with the RAF having perhaps achieved the greatest integration of women. Pregnancy remains a phenomenon which none of the services finds easy to accommodate.

An interesting test of the service's attitude to women could arise quite soon. At the top of their profession, as directors of the Women's Royal



Sarah Kahn: the latest woman to make an impact in the armed forces

Army Corps and the Women's Royal Air Force are Brigadier Helen Meesche and Air Commodore Helen Renton.

After one year as director, Brigadier Meesche is still only 43, and Air Commodore Renton is only 52 after more than three years in the post. Normally appointments at this level are not held for more than about three years, and these two officers are young enough to have

the possibility of one or more further appointments before they reach the retiring age of 55.

But they cannot go further in the women's branches. The question is whether the services will break new ground by offering them senior appointments outside the female confines. Whatever happens, traditionalists may take comfort from the fact that there remain obstacles to the rise of military women.

At the Royal Military Academy at Sandhurst the men will shortly be joined by women, though there will be only a limited measure of integration, mainly in the academic side of training. Women will have a place in the passing out parade, however, though only in part of it, for the width of their skirts limits the size of their stride and prevents them keeping pace with the men's staff marching.

I've been left holding the baby

FIRST PERSON

"She combines motherhood with a successful career as a barrister". "She manages to combine her computer business with bringing up four children". "She manages to do the housework and occasionally visits friends as well as copes with two children". I will give a prize of one baby wipe to the person who guesses correctly which of the above descriptions fits me.

How do they do it? I was certainly a reasonably successful career girl before I married, but that all went out the window when my first son manifested his existence. My pregnancy was so horribly sickly that working in an office would have been impossible. I used to lie on a bed trying to focus on a single paragraph of a book for hours. When the baby arrived, my clear duty was to breast-feed him. Oh Well, thought I, with feeds every four hours there

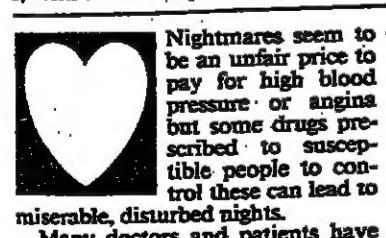
will still be plenty of time for other things. My babies, however, are obsessive feeders. They feed practically for four hours at a time and carry on like that for months. I spent the first 16 months of my first child's life wearing clothes that buttoned down the front.

At 18 months my son started at a playgroup and I then spent three mornings a week sitting in a dusty church hall, drinking coffee and comparing my child with other grubby infants, trying to convince myself that he was more intelligent. When he was old enough to be left and later, when he went to nursery school, I indulged in hectic clock-watching shopping trips, dreading long queues at the supermarket.

When my son started at "big school" friends assumed that I

combined a job and a young family to have a mother or mother-in-law who is fit and capable and lives near by. Otherwise there is the possibility of employing a nanny or child minder. A nanny costs money and needs to be accommodated and somehow I have never wanted to entrust my offspring to a child-minder, however capable. I think I should worry myself silly, wondering whether they had climbed out of an upstairs window or gone home when the child-minder is looking the other way. Even if one does employ a child-minder, one's income at least has to cover the cost. I suppose I shall have to resign myself to motherhood alone. As I write this (mercifully short) article, the baby is gleefully emptying my desk drawers, so combining it with writing is out, too.

Margery Roberts



Nightmares seem to be an unfair price to pay for high blood pressure or angina but some drugs prescribed to susceptible people to control these can lead to miserable, disturbed nights.

Many doctors and patients have been aware for some years of this unpleasant side-effect of beta-blockers, as they are called, but recent work in Birmingham by Dr Tim Beits and Chris Alford have shown some surprising differences between the two different groups of the drugs.

Working with 10 healthy young people they compared the effects of four different drugs - atenolol, propranolol, metoprolol and pindolol - on patterns of sleep. The last three, with chemical structures which give them an affinity to fats, tended to cause disturbed nights while the first one, with a different chemical structure, left little impression.

Beta-blockers are now prescribed for migraines and insomnia. It seems that propranolol and associates are more likely to be successful for these problems. The reason is linked with the nightmares. It is thought that because these drugs have an affinity to fats, they can more easily seep into the central nervous system (which is protected by a fatty layer) and so have a direct effect on the brain.

Buried danger

If you go down to the sea for a bank holiday weekend, beware the lesser weaver fish. Usually between four and five inches long, it has sharp spines in its fins. If you accidentally tread on one of its venomous spines you will soon know about it.

The venom is not dangerous, but for some people the pain can be agonizing. Each summer hundreds

MEDICAL BRIEFING

Curing insomnia and the nightmares

of bathers become victims and need medical help.

An article in the British Medical Journal a couple of weeks ago suggested some remedies for the pain, though it was pointed out that even some strong pain killers are not always effective. Since then doctors from many coastal resorts have written to the journal about their own remedies. Cornish GPs seem to have the most experience of dealing with weaver fish stings and in the letters column this week hot water is put forward as the most popular remedy.

Running cost

The catalogues of illness and injury among athletes at last week's world championships in Helsinki has heightened fears that modern sportsmen and women may be training too hard for their own good. American 100 metre hopeful Evelyn Ashford's tragic fall in the final, and Cuban Alberto Juantoreno's broken ankle add more weight to the concept that the physical pounding athletes force their bodies to endure is now so great that muscle tears and stress fractures result.

Britain's Sebastian Coe didn't even make the games. He was stricken by a mystery virus. But, experts are now suggesting that his illness, too, may be the consequence of over training. Could it be that the stresses of training and competition depress the immune system, leaving athletes prone to infection?

Rabies relief

Viewers of the recent BBC TV drama *The Mad Death* (a fictional account of a rabies epidemic in Britain) may rest a little easier in the knowledge that a safe and effective vaccine for the disease is available, though an outbreak here would still be catastrophic. The original rabies vaccine, produced from the nervous tissue of infected animals, was only used to treat the disease. Paradoxically, impurities in the preparation meant that the vaccine

could also cause nerve damage though not to the devastating extent of rabies itself.

Since then, however, the French vaccine manufacturers Institut Mérieux have perfected a way of growing rabies virus in human cells. Their vaccine can simply be injected into the arm because only small amounts are necessary and its lack of side effects means it can be used both as a prophylactic and treatment.

Travellers to areas of the world where rabies is rife, such as the Indian sub-continent, can ask their GPs to get a prophylactic course for them, (two shots one month apart) from Servier of Slough - they supply Institut Mérieux's product here. A course costs around £36. British Airways also provides a rabies vaccination service.

Pool rash

A new disinfectant used in public swimming pools may be giving swimmers a nasty rash. Most public baths in Britain are chlorinated to keep them safe, but in recent years a few have started to use a brominated disinfectant. Skin experts say the product which has two brand names, Di-halo and Aquabrome, may cause eczema.

Dr Richard Rycroft, consultant dermatologist at St John's Hospital for Diseases of the Skin in London, and Dr Philip Penny, medical adviser to the Amateur Swimming Association, have seen 48 people who developed skin trouble after swimming in pools where Di-halo was used. Dr Rycroft has also received eight independent reports of similar problems from other dermatologists. And a survey of swimming magazine readers unearthed a further 65 people who developed "more than just trivial" rashes.

Olivia Timbs and Lorraine Fraser



... of an outbreak here would still be catastrophic. The original rabies vaccine, produced from the nervous tissue of infected animals, was only used to treat the disease. Paradoxically, impurities in the preparation meant that the vaccine

One happy family, isn't it, Sister?

COMMENT

You want an accident in Windsor, said the mini-cab driver by way of light conversation; have it between nine and five and reckon on surviving the trip to Slough. Time was, King Edward's would have seen you all right. Now it's falling apart. You're better off in Princess Margaret, he said. He takes them all home after Princess Margaret. Princess Margaret gives them a good

quaise, that sort of fare. Good food aids recovery, is the idea.

Brand loyalty has spread to the patients. In room 214, Mrs Unwin presses a bedside button and her lacy torso rises magnificently to attention. "Wonderful!" she says, either of the electronics or her nearly healed abdomen. But we were all so upset when Mrs Thatcher took her eye round the corner to the Princess Christian. We had a Miss Thatcher, though, in for some dentistry. Still, it was a shame. She would have loved it here.

Well, anybody would. The last time something went wrong with Mrs Unwin, before she went on the health insurance scheme, she found herself in a public ward with 60 other people and the whole place reminded her of a scene from a war disaster movie.

On the floor above, a tastefully tattooed young man takes over the commercial. He wishes it to be known that he is "very impressed".

It's not like they're doing a job, he explained, it's more like a service, like in a hotel. He'd had to wait six months to have his tonsils out on the NHS, and when he got in, there were no curtains at the windows and great lumps of plaster were hanging off the walls. Look, he says, what it all boils down to is I don't want to walk through corridors and have to see a lot of drags going in people. I don't want to mingle with the dying.

Makes you feel sorry for them. Makes you feel you ought to go and put up pretty curtains for them.

The marketing director was especially pleased I'd met a milkman's wife on my rounds. It went to prove the Princess Margaret was not just for the idle rich. Three years ago only 7 per cent of Windsor possessed such prudence. Now, she said modestly, it had gone up to 14 per cent. However, there are beds lying empty in Princess Margaret, so much, much more marketing is required. Here is our physiotherapy department, we have a doctor in the house 24 hours a day, and over there's the delivery room and everywhere there are carpets, which is why it's all so quiet and peaceful.

Except for the hammering and banging out back. That's for an extension. You won't find too many of those in the public sector either.

Sally Vincent

On Monday
Monkey business in Spectrum

THE TIMES Tomorrow

START THE WEEKEND WITH THE PAPER THAT INFORMS, STIMULATES, AMUSES AND PROVOKES

● DEATH BEHIND THE LINES: David Hewson on the secret courts martial of the First World War



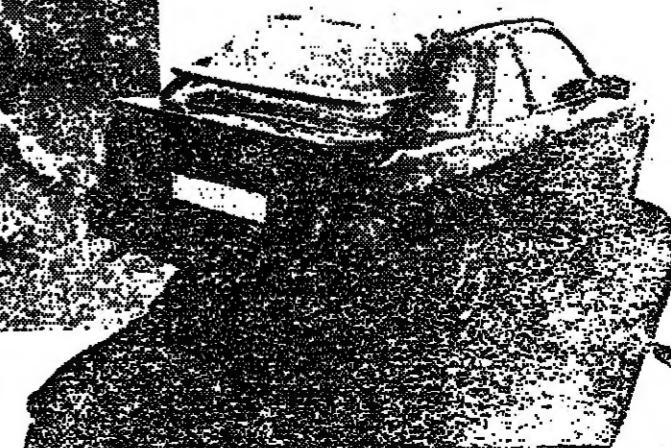
● A chance to win a Ford Sierra XR 4i

● VILLAGE CRICKET: John Parker on the build-up to next week's final at Lord's

● TRAVEL: Journey of a Lifetime - Australia

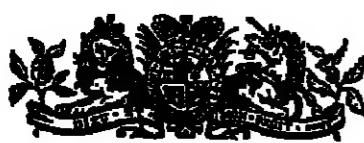
● SPORT: The golden sportsmen - preview of the European Athletics Cup Final at Crystal Palace

● FAMILY MONEY: How to finance your own business



Plus

All the news from home and abroad; Values - the shopping delights of Hampstead and Highgate; Drink on the virtues of mineral water; Review - video cassettes of the month; preview of the best of the Edinburgh Festival; the top gardening column; bridge and chess; critics' choice of what's on at the cinema and on the stage.



THE TIMES DIARY

Dash back

Jack Dash, the firebrand orator who led London dockers through many unofficial strikes, was in congenial surroundings this week, giving evidence against plans to redevelop the Free Trade Wharf site at Shadwell. The planning inquiry is being held in the lecture hall of the National Museum of Labour History, Limehouse, beneath dozens of banners bearing defiant slogans, once borne aloft by demonstrators. Dash supported the local protest group's complaint that the huge blocks of offices and flats planned would shut the river away from the people who worked on it. Dash, who worked 28 years in the docks, is now, at 75, a voluntary warden at an old people's home in Stepney.

Reeling on the isle

The Hebrides are agog to see who will partner Princess Margaret at the Skye Ball next month when she revives the claim of the Royal Hotel, Portree, to its title. The last leading royal to cut a caper there was Bonnie Prince Charlie, bidding Flora MacDonald farewell in 1746 after failing to dislodge Princess Margaret's ancestors. The Princess is officially in Skye to present the Queen's Award for Industry to Gaeltec, a canny technological outfit who put together transducers for heart pacemakers among the crofts.

Aping royalty

The royal family's enthusiasm for homeopathic remedies is shared by an even more closely knit group - a colony of American woolly monkeys at Leonard Williams's monkey sanctuary in Looe. Woolly monkeys are delicate, fastidious creatures who react badly to antibiotics and hate injections. Weleda, who supply the sanctuary with homeopathic medicines, think its health record should impress the BMA committee inquiring into alternative medicine. You cannot, they say, pull the wool over a woolly monkey's eyes.

● Jeremy Holt, of London, writes in to ask whether the hot weather is getting to people. He has just had a letter dated "15 Angst."

BARRY FANTONI!



"The Minister's terribly excited. They've asked him on with Roland Rat."

Hot and bothered

The current hot weather has revealed how little we British know about wine, and how little our restauranteurs care. At the Four Seasons restaurant in Islington I was served Sancerre rouge at hot room temperature. It tasted sick and sweaty. "I know it should be chilled", said the proprietor, "but our customers do not like it like that". At the Brasserie St. Quentin, Brompton Road, despite a very French ambience, a request to cool over-warm red wine was greeted with reluctance and Gallic smirks, and at 192, Kensington Park Road, and at 192, Kensington Park Road, a partner in the business came to argue the toss about my demand that a gently cooking claret be plunged in an ice-bucket. The final straw came at Carter's, in Islington. "We do not chill any of the red wines - not even the beaujolais", was told by a waiter who, again, knew they should. Such things never happened at Hineshead Hall.

● A PHS spy noted a large party disembarking from a coach at the Salvation Army headquarters in Queen Victoria Street. On the back of the vehicle was the slogan: "You drink... We drive."

Modicum

Chandrika Prasad Srivastava, secretary-general of the London-based International Maritime Organization has an official black Daimler, with the registration I MO. The UN agency switched numbers last year, abandoning I MCO on changing its name from the Intergovernmental Maritime Consultative Organization. On writing to the Department of Transport for permission, IMO found that I MO had never been registered before, so they did not have to buy it. Tony Hill, whose Elite Registration deals in fancy plates, says I MO would have been worth about £6,000. If Chandrika Prasad Srivastava wanted I CPS, it would have cost him "about £3,200".

Not many of my readers count. This is a relief, since I can't either. Just two of you have written to point out that last Friday in this spot I called an octagon "six-sided". Robson Lowe, chairman of the philatelic auctioneers at Christie's, was the kinder of the two about it. He tells me that 40 years ago a brother auctioneer described an Indian stamp as being cut hexagonally. Robson Lowe's retort was that the owner must have been a vet.

Edward Mortimer and Hazhir Teimourian on the coup in Iran 30 years ago today

From Mossadeq to Khomeini

"I owe my throne to God, my people, my army - and to you." With these words, according to Kermit Roosevelt, the Shah thanked him, and through him the Central Intelligence Agency to which he belonged, for its part in restoring him to power 30 years ago today.

Roosevelt's exploit, recounted in his book *Coutroupe*, has become the *locus classicus* of a CIA coup. It was also beyond doubt a turning point in the history of modern Iran.

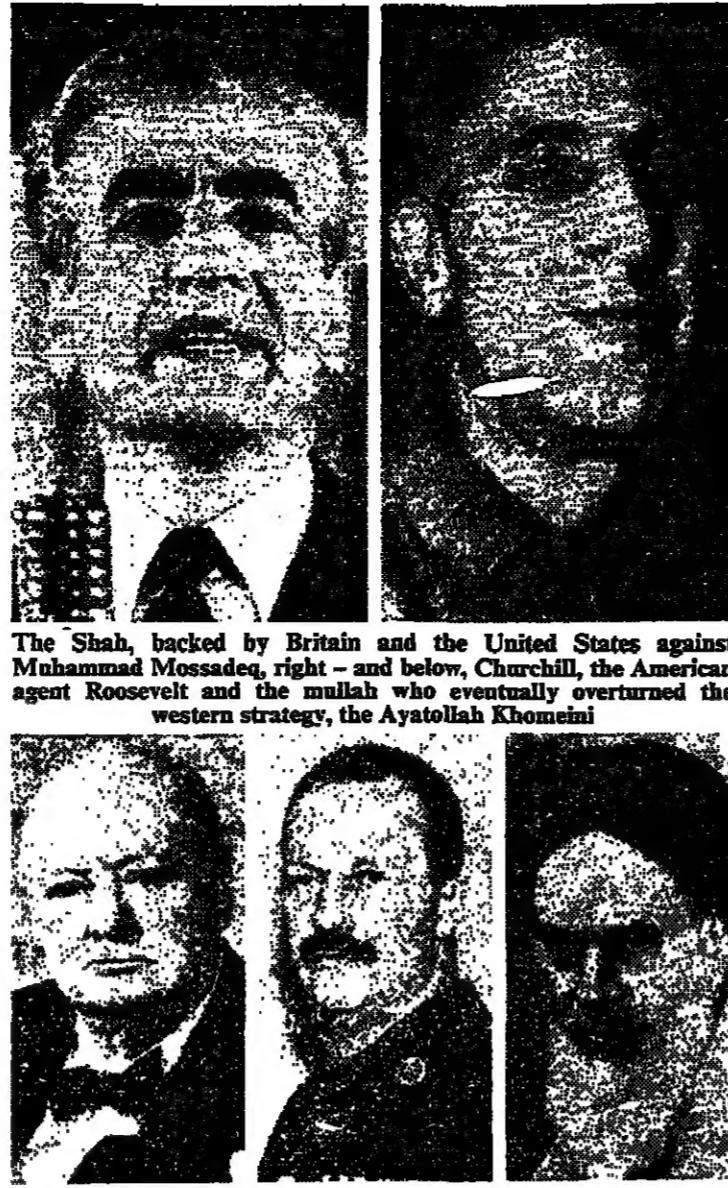
Now that Iran is languishing under the gruesome medieval tyranny of Ayatollah Khomeini, it is hard to imagine the atmosphere which made Muhammad Mossadeq such a demoniac figure for the British press and public of the early 1950s. Mossadeq was a secular nationalist who propounded for Iran the doctrine of "negative equilibrium". His argument was that in the past Iran had mortgaged its independence by trying to buy off the great powers with concessions ("positive equilibrium"). Instead it should safeguard independence by refusing concessions to all alike, and taking control of its own resources.

He was thus no less opposed to giving the Soviet Union an oil concession in the north than he was to the control of Iran's main exportable resource (the oil of Khuzistan, in the south) by the Anglo-Iranian Oil Company. But his refusal to compromise over the nationalization of AIOC (the forerunner of British Petroleum) won him the status of Britain's public enemy number one in the Middle East.

The septuagenarian, often bedridden figure, prone to burst into tears in the middle of his own speeches, was the constant butt of cartoonists and leader writers alike. He was, as *The Times* obituary recalled on his death 14 years later, "prime minister and near-dictator of Persia in the disastrous period 1951-53... the passionately nationalist statesman who, with many eccentricities of manner and method, led his country to the repudiation of its agreement with the Anglo-Iranian Oil Company, and to the very verge of national ruin".

For the Shah too, Mossadeq was "an utterly irrational being" but also - however improbably - a British agent; whereas, according to Kermit Roosevelt, "Dr Mossadeq had already attempted to expel his monarch, replacing him with himself, and he had formed an alliance with the Soviet Union to achieve the result he wanted".

But for many Iranians today Mossadeq has become the symbol of an Iran that might have been and (since hope springs eternal) might yet be: modern and progressive yet independent of the West, proud of its national traditions yet free of fanaticism. Recently, when groups opposed to Khomeini came together



The Shah, backed by Britain and the United States against Muhammad Mossadeq, right - and below, Churchill, the American agent Roosevelt and the mullah who eventually overthrew the western strategy, the Ayatollah Khomeini

The man who insisted on this was Shapour Bakhtiar, whose premiership in January, 1979, marked a brief liberal interlude between the Shah and Khomeini. Bakhtiar, who was himself a junior minister in Mossadeq's last government, remains a staunch defender of the old man's memory. According to him, Mossadeq gave Iran "a lesson in democracy", was firmly committed to a constitutional monarchy rather than a republic, and never flirted with either the Soviet Union or the local communists.

Nor, Bakhtiar says, did he want "to throw the British out of Iran". He was willing to have a British manager for the oil company, keep on all British employees, and pay compensation for the British-built plant (though not for loss of profits). It was Britain which showed it was intractable," Bakhtiar says in his book *Mafidet*!

Indeed, while Mossadeq was determined to implement the nationalization law, the company, under its chairman, Sir William Fraser, was no less determined to thwart it, even urging the British government to take military action.

The Americans under President Truman refused to support this, and Attlee after some hesitation ruled it out. Britain decided instead to starve Iran into submission by organizing a boycott of Iranian oil.

The other six international oil companies were willing to support AIOC in this, for fear that Mossadeq's precedent might be followed in other oil-producing states.

The boycott was backed by British military power but Mossadeq was also unlucky in his timing: there was no oil shortage, and the Iranian gap

● Albin Michel, Paris, 1982.

Charles McLean looks at the architectural contest with a difference

How a city shaped up to a thug and an aristocrat

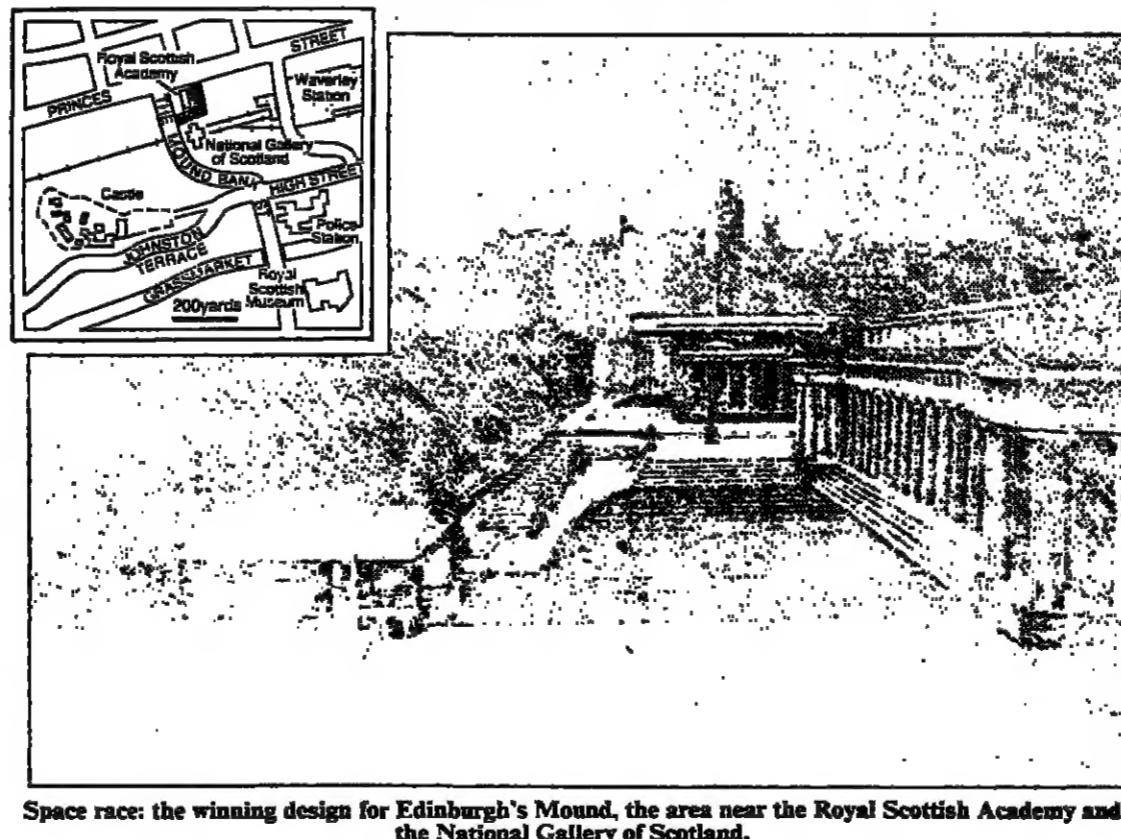
By any normal standards, the competition was a difficult one: the design of a major public meeting place in a setting of European importance - the Mound, in Edinburgh. Most design competitions for projects to be built are for buildings: rarely for the spaces between buildings. Indeed, for the last 100 years, the ancient importance of the public forum, amphitheatre or *agora* has been devolved to that grey and unspecific term "the public open space". Many competitors saw this contest as a way of redressing the balance.

The competition was for the transformation of the roadway that used to run alongside the Royal Scottish Academy (William Playfair, 1832) and thence between the RSA and the National Gallery of Scotland (Playfair, 1845). It had been decided that the road would be closed in any case; but the resulting discussions led to a realization that ever since the Quality quit the Old Town (with its traditional meeting place at the market cross) for the New Town (with no meeting place at all) Edinburgh had been without a focus.

This site could provide that focus, but not without difficulty. First, it is L-shaped; second, it is rigidly defined on one side by a boundary governed by an Act of Parliament; and third - and possibly most important - the site is entirely dominated by the two great art galleries, which are neo-classical monuments of world class; the RSA is a gigantic, muscular, Doric thug, whereas its neighbour, the National Gallery of Scotland, is a refined, feminine Edinburgh aristocrat. Both buildings are overlooked by the craggy wall of the Royal Mile, and in turn look down upon Princes Street and the New Town. These constraints leave little chance for creative innovation.

Furthermore, whether competitors decided to do nothing, or the minimum, or produce a major building, all had to be contained within the budget of £500,000, barely more than that required to pave the sloping site in stone: a critical point, since the most imaginative schemes were those which exploited the changes in level.

Those who decided to submit a major building proposal had then to determine whether they respected the existing character of the site, or whether they fought it. One entrant



Space race: the winning design for Edinburgh's Mound, the area near the Royal Scottish Academy and the National Gallery of Scotland.

expressed his dissatisfaction with the project by entering a live scheme: the site plan was returned with the two galleries covered with uncooked pork chops, sausage and black puddings, with salad heaped between. The panel members, while holding their noses (for this was an early entry, and by the time the technical assessment panel had reached it, the food had matured) concluded that the entrant proposed to pile 30ft of garbage over the entire site: as such, it did not meet the competition conditions.

Submissions fell into three main groups: those who simply offered a landscape design; those who used water; and those who produced major building structures. The winning entries were all in the first category, of which more later. However, a significant number used water on the site to soften its hard, rectangular and Calvinist outlines. Such entries included ideas for fountains, waterfalls, streams, lochs, curling ponds, skating ponds, ornamental gardens and winter gardens. Most were beautifully presented, but none avoided the difficulties of future maintenance, clearance of rubbish, and whether or not the presence of water might inhibit the use of these spaces for other purposes.

However, the winning student entry - commanded for its sheer panache - proposed a loch running along the entire side of the Royal Scottish Academy, satisfying the requirement for access to load and unload drawings into the gallery by a service road!

The final group of entrants were those who proposed major building structures, ranging from reproduction Palladian villas, ruined

was easily filled by increased production elsewhere. Refusing to be browbeaten, Mossadeq rejected US attempts at mediation, but inside Iran, with no oil revenue coming in, the situation inevitably degenerated.

By July, 1953, Mossadeq was at odds not only with the Shah but also with the traditional middle class, represented by the bazaar and the main religious leaders, both groups that had originally supported him. To overcome opposition from parliament (the majority of whose members were landlords, wealthy merchants or religious leaders) he resorted to a referendum without secret ballot.

The Times believed that this was the reason for the coup against him. ("The Shah, thanks to his western education, is a warm supporter of parliamentary institutions.") But in fact the planning for it was well advanced before the referendum. The initiative had come from Britain, where Churchill was by then in power, but the CIA had to take charge. Britain, having broken diplomatic relations, could no longer get its people into Iran.

The new Republican Administration in Washington eagerly agreed, although with different motives. According to Roosevelt, "the British motive was simply to recover the AIOC oil concession. We were not concerned with that but with the obvious threat of Russian takeover."

That threat was not obvious to everyone. The Americans, then as now, were predisposed to see the hand of Moscow behind every spot of bother. They believed that Mossadeq, knowingly or otherwise, was playing into the hands of the Tudeh (communist) Party, which was closely aligned with Soviet interests.

It is true that the Tudeh grew stronger under Mossadeq's rule, and was allowed to carry on a strident campaign against the Shah and other powerful groups which were also opposed to Mossadeq. But when, after the first attempt at the coup had failed, Tudeh crowds poured into the streets, pulling down statues of the Shah, Mossadeq ordered the army to clear them out - thereby unwittingly facilitating the successful coup the following day.

If there was a communist danger it arose from the chaotic internal situation in the country, which itself was caused largely by difficulties arising from the oil boycott. As in Chile 20 years later - and, who knows, in Nicaragua tomorrow - the situation in which western countries felt obliged and entitled to intervene was one partly of their own making. The effect, while it may have encouraged Iran's economic development, was to distort its political development. In his determination to forestall another Mossadeq, the Shah prepared the ground for Khomeini.

● Albin Michel, Paris, 1982.

George Walden

Reagan should go Russian

Sociology - once defined as "the science of vehement obscurity" - has spread to foreign affairs. In international sociology, too, quasi-scientific jargon masks passionate partisanship. Instead of peer groups, we have nuclear equivalence, and countries are reduced to behaviouristic automata by doctrines of strategic determinism. Some international sociologists are of the adamantine right, some of the hard left. In both cases, it is the human factor which is elided.

After reading more about the Russians, the President might like to meet one, or see the country. The most prominent recent American visitors to Moscow have been an 11-year-old girl and a 91-year-old diplomat (Averell Harriman). During my own 20 years in diplomacy (spent mainly on communist affairs), I do not recall a moment when the East-West cultural gap has been greater. We badly need to put the whole of our relations in a wider and deeper perspective. They are the ones with the rigid, one-dimensional world view. We are supposed to have a broader vision.

The state of Soviet studies in America is not encouraging. Few of the next generation of American experts seem likely to bring George Kerman's depth of historical reflection to the issues. Few too will have met many Russians, though many will have strong views on them. Arid specialization and ideological intensity make a pernicious mixture.

I am not a faint-hearted European and I am not apologizing for Moscow. The point is not to melt the President's heart, or to pierce his political armour. Indeed in some areas closer acquaintance with *homo rusticus* might lead one to take a tougher line. To get him out of Afghanistan, for example, you need not only some historical understanding of why he went there in the first place, but also to realize that there will be no negotiated withdrawal unless somebody sees to it that the resistance is properly armed. Nozdrayev would understand that.

But we must differentiate. In Poland "the worse, the better" would be the wrong motto. Uncontrolled *pourrissement* in Eastern Europe could be bad for both sides. We should think in national and historical, as well as ideological terms. Even a little peasant shrewdness could help.

Moralistic oratory and technocratic diplomacy are not enough. There is no substitute for statesmanship, and the demand for it is growing. Many sensible, conservative-minded people in the West are worried as much by its absence as by the nuclear numbers game - which itself reflects the failure of diplomacy. But they want leadership, not a crusade.

Harold Macmillan was not much of a nuclear expert, or ideologue. But he knew his history, and the Russians, and helped Kennedy to get the Test Ban Treaty signed just 20 years ago. He also found time to read Trollope at No 10. The author is Conservative MP for Buckingham and a former Private Secretary to Lord Carrington.

Philip Howard

All hands to harvest the happy memories

The harvest truly is plentious this year, but the labourers are few. Now that British farming is so thoroughly mechanized, there is no unskilled work left on the harvest field for unskilled visitors to do. We used to stock until quite recently up here in darkest Ayrshire. Then come out the next morning to observe with chagrin that the wind from the Atlantic had blown all the stocks down, and then start again and put them all up again. Back aches and hands sting with remembered thistles even to write it. Nostalgia, nostalgia. Where are the harvests of yesteryear?

After a week or two of that game, we pitchforked the sheaves on to carts, put them all back again when they couped, and rode in triumph on top of the swaying load, back to the steading, and forked all the sheaves up again into the shed.

Even after the combines had penetrated the hill farms up here, there were still bales to load and unload. We sweated gravy as the stack grew towards the roof of the barn, but when things grew too hot the elevator could always be relied on to break down. Now the mechanical bale-grabbers have arrived, and vast bales shaped like Swiss rolls that no human, however willing, can lift by hand. "Dry August and warm doth harvest no harm" rhymed Tom Tesser in *Five Hundred Points of Good Husbandry* in 1580. August is preternaturally warm and dry. The harvest looks quite good. But there is nothing that amateurs can do to help.

And now the polis even say that it is illegal for children to ride home on top of the loader bales, in the few farms that still build loads of old fashioned bales. There is an ancient game in which the local boys drove monstrous machines around an obstacle course, picked up telegraph poles with their fork lifts as delicately as lesser men pick up chipolatas sausages with a fork, backed between narrow gate posts, and deposited their loads without spilling a drop water from the milk churns balanced on their trailers. I made my excuse and did not have a go.

Farming will never be wholly mechanized as long as there are animals down on the farm. The new imported big breeds, the Lincolines and Simmentals, and Charolais (familiarly called Charlies up here) made a noble show at Dumfries and Ayrshires. The hills are alive with the sound of bleating lambs for we have been scanning the flock, separating the lambs from their ewes and dipping the best ones primrose yellow for the markets.

Visiting townies overcome their modesty about lifting up the gory tails of several hundred lambs to determine their sex: not always as obvious as you would imagine at that age. They call a ragg (a male with only one testicle) a "chaser" up here, let his tail grow as a badge of distinction and keep him as an energetic curiosity to encourage the tips in their work. One falls into the dipping tank in over-enthusiasm and comes out yellow. The Nootling Hill Beagles are always in the way.

Who was it who said that you cannot make a man by standing a sheep on its hind legs but by standing a flock of sheep in that position? Compared with the flock of silly tourists on the London Underground, the wild sheep of darkest Ayrshire are civilized and sedate and bright yellow.



P.O. Box 7, 200 Gray's Inn Road, London WCIX 8EZ. Telephone: 01-837 1234

THE SOVIET CHALLENGE: II

A major fallacy in Western assessments of Soviet intentions is to assume that the Soviet leaders are basically similar to politicians in any country. In Western democracies politicians come and go; the electorate prefers pragmatic government which benefits citizens as individuals rather than the enforcement of ideological solutions for the good of the state. In the USSR continuity of leadership is all-important. The legitimacy of the regime has no firmer foundation than the seizure of power in 1917 by a minority party which promised a glorious future for mankind after world communism was attained – an "inevitable process" which the party nonetheless had a duty to accelerate.

Individual Soviet leaders have been denounced – some even murdered – by those who took power from them. But Lenin, his body preserved in the Mausoleum on which his successors review their forces, lives on as the main inspiration of Soviet foreign policy. Previous leaders may have made mistakes, but the party and the doctrine must be regarded as infallible or six decades of Soviet rule and all the sufferings of the masses building socialism will have been in vain. Even if they have personal doubts about the wisdom of spreading their political system by all the means at their disposal, the men in the Kremlin do not give expression to their misgivings for fear of losing power to their rivals.

Continuity is particularly noticeable in Soviet foreign policy. The imperialism of the Russian tsars has given way to a Soviet empire expanding under the guise of bringing socialism to the workers of the world. This is one aspect of their predecessors' rule which new leaders have not condemned. The same Khrushchev who de-Stalinized and freed thousands of political prisoners preserved Stalin's conquests, crushing the Hungarian rising and executing Prime Minister Imre Nagy for "treason". When he backed down in the Cuban crisis of 1962 he lost his post. The same Brezhnev who in the heyday of detente drank champagne with President Nixon and kissed President Carter presided

over the suppression of the Prague Spring, expanded Soviet influence in Third World countries with the help of Cuban forces, and ordered the invasion of Afghanistan.

The Andropov who is portrayed by some as a liberal intellectual pursuing a defensive foreign policy was himself in Hungary helping to suppress the 1956 rising and as head of the KGB from 1967 played a central role in the Brezhnev strategy of internal repression and foreign expansion which continue today under his own leadership. The head of the Central Committee International Department, Boris Ponomarev, and the Foreign Minister, Andrei Gromyko, both have decades of experience, uninterrupted since they began their careers under Stalin.

The present Soviet leaders have caused too much misery to be described as good men; yet their misdeeds stem not from personal wickedness, but from their obedience to a system unrestrained by popular control, a system which has brought them honour and privileges. They are not the men to renounce the beliefs of a lifetime or to recant on their aims of achieving world communism under Moscow control. The younger careerists who hope to become the leaders of tomorrow provide the information and advice which conform to the Kremlin world view, not original ideas about reaching a peaceful compromise with the West.

It is not fully realised in the West that the Kremlin's unchanging and unquestioning hostility is not only directed at the negative side of life under capitalism but also at the positive freedoms and consumer delights which exercise such a dangerous fascination for those under communist rule. This is not the traditional threat of a hostile nation seeking self-aggrandisement, but the threat of a system which compels human beings to suppress their human qualities in the service of a political machine. Just as the democracies failed to believe that Hitler meant what he said until he proved it with Blitzkrieg and concentration camp, many now prefer to listen to what some smiling Soviet official tells

FIVE-YEAR RAILWAY TIMETABLE

Few commercial organizations of any size could have kept to a five year plan drawn up in 1978, nor would many care to publish such detailed plans now. Yet British Rail, as a state industry, was forced into this somewhat academic performance again yesterday. Its past efforts as the Comptroller and Auditor General has pointed out, have made its commuter timetables seem a model of accuracy by comparison, not least because of the recession and strikes. It is just as hard for railway managers to monitor their complex and inter-linked mix of social and commercial businesses as it is for the Department of Transport.

Today British Rail is committed to forecasts for the year 1988, when it does not even know who will be its chairman next month, nor whether the government will approve important projects for main line electrification; let alone what schemes Whitchurch advisers have in store for railway organization or for introducing private capital.

Under such conditions of uncertainty, it is hardly surprising that the Corporate Plan 1983-88 is little more than a discussion document and a

modest one at that. A further 17,000 jobs will go and labour productivity will rise by just 7 per cent. Of the two largest divisions required to run on commercial terms, freight is expected to meet its target but inter-city services on the other hand will only break even, though British Rail hopes that a study now under way will find the missing profits.

This package, while hardly dramatic, is both logical and credible. British Rail has made substantial strides recently in getting to grips with its problems and re-organizing its structure so as to give its managers realistic financial and operating targets. The Corporate Plan adds to this new realism by concentrating on cost savings without exaggerated hopes about an upturn in business.

There is still a lingering feeling at the back of many minds that the railways could do without massive subsidies if only they were run efficiently or that there is some magic way of transforming railway finances in much the same way as duty-free sales pay for the losses incurred in running airports. Real planning can only begin when it is acknowledged

CONGRESSMEN ON THE FALLS ROAD

American politicians have been playing Irish politics since the days of the great famine. Mostly they play at home. For the last few weeks they have been playing away in the fortified stadium of Belfast. The local reception has been decidedly mixed.

First there was the Noraid tour of anniversary disturbances, enjoyable even to being participatory. That was followed by the appearance of three Congressmen, variously interested in job discrimination against Roman Catholics. Their stated purpose was fact-finding with contingent threats – to fine the parents of American subsidiaries in Ulster, or to block a U.S. contract with Short Brothers for the supply of aircraft. The quality of the investigation may be gauged from the person of the principal investigator, Father Sean McManus of the Irish National Caucus, an inveterate opponent of the preservation of Ulster's British identity, and the American of all Americans with whom the tenor objectivity of an Irish fact would be least safe.

It would be surprising indeed if the imprint of religious and political discrimination were not

to be found on the pattern of employment in Northern Ireland. There is a long and well established history of it. A tendency to de facto segregation in housing has been reinforced in recent years by naked fear in some urban areas. And there is in progress in that society something resembling a suppressed civil war.

The surprising thing is not that active discrimination may be found but that there is not more of it. Up and down the province Protestants and Catholics work side by side, even in the sad tale of the meat factory at Moy. The Catholics in the workforce would not work if the Union Jack was flown. The Protestants would not work if it was taken down. The factory could not operate without the cooperation of both, so the management shut it down. What could be less discriminatory than that?

The Fair Employment (Northern Ireland) Act of 1976 is a far-reaching statute to make unlawful every kind of religious or political discrimination in employment. The Americans have good experience of the efficacy of such enactments. Congressmen

Saving Mr Steel from his friends

From Mr Colin Darracott

Sir, Your report (August 17) that David Steel may resign the leadership of the Liberal Party if the constitutional amendment on control of the manifesto contents is passed by the Liberal Party Assembly quotes unnamed "friends" of his as evidence.

The media, and the party internally, have recently been awash with Mr Steel's "friends" and friends of Mr Steel's "friends" making allegations of this nature whenever these matters are discussed. They have preferred to take refuge in dark alleys and veiled threats, rather than to honestly discuss the issues involved.

These issues, quite simply, are how a democratically-run party, the first to elect its leader by the votes of all members, shall arrive at the content of its manifesto. The effect of the amendment would give final authority to the standing committee of the party, of which the leader is a member.

Thus if the leader strongly disagrees with an item of party policy he would not doubt be able to persuade the committee to omit it from a manifesto. If he could not, he would hardly be likely to be able to convince the electorate on the point. But he would have to argue his case, be heard to argue, and give his reasons. Thus the rest of the party, while perhaps not agreeing with him, would at least know why he had taken a position.

This is very different from the present case, where policy on, for example, animal welfare and cruise missiles has been brushed aside apparently by personal dictate.

It would also spread responsibility for the manifesto's content, and spread the range of party opinion which contributes to it. This year, all the discontent about the programme for the recent general election has fallen on Mr Steel. If the whole of an elected body were involved that responsibility would be spread, and the main debate could be on issues and not personalities.

Those of us who support this amendment wish to openly debate the issues it raises. In the absence of any word from Mr Steel himself, his "friends" would do well to join that debate, and to abstain from childish threats.

Yours sincerely,
COLIN DARRACOTT, Chairman,
London Region Liberal Party,
The Liberal Centre,
30 St James Road, SE17.

August 17.

Future of the Alliance

From Mr Peter Birksby

Sir, Philip Webster (article, August 10) seems to have been talking to people who see some sort of divergence between David Owen's views on candidate selection for the European elections and those of SDP members at grass roots level.

This is an analysis not borne out by my own experience. I believe that joint selection would be in the interests of neither the SDP nor the Liberal Party.

With joint selection the vast majority of candidates selected would be Liberals, not necessarily because they were the best candidates, rather because they had the backing of people whose party loyalties had developed over years and decades. Liberals would tend to vote for Liberals far more than Social Democrats would vote for Social Democrats.

The two suggested methods of joint selection would have the same results. If all members were invited to a meeting Liberals would outnumber Social Democrats by an average of three to one, and unless the SDP candidate was head and shoulders above the rest the result would be a foregone conclusion.

If an electoral college was set up, so that equal numbers voted from each party, the result would be the same, due to the relative strength of party loyalties.

Most Liberals, I believe, accept these arguments only too well. When factions of the Liberal Party like the Association of Liberal Councillors, which was once so hostile to the SDP, suddenly reverse their positions, they let the cat out of the bag.

Those Social Democrats who favour a quick merger also realize the implications, but are prepared to pay the price. The vast majority of Social Democrats, however, I believe will not be prepared to pay the price and will say so loud and clear at the council in September.

To project an Alliance which was nothing more than an extended Liberal Party could mean that we all suffer the same fate as the Liberal Party of 1979.

Yours sincerely,
PETER BIRKSBY,
32 Park Grove,
Bradford 9,
West Yorkshire.
August 10.

Missing the point

From Squadron Leader R. G. Burr (Retd)

Sir, An example of the type of notice referred to by Mr Yorke in today's issue, (August 9) was an inscription which up until the formation of the NHS appeared chiseled into a stone band around a hospital on the edge of Clapham Common. It read: "The South London Hospital for Women Supported by Voluntary Contributions."

However, I noticed at some time after 1948, that the word "Women" had been removed and the word "for" had been extended by the addition of "merely", which saddened me somewhat.

Yours faithfully,
R. G. BURR,
7 The Slade,
Lamberhurst,
Kent.
August 9.

It would be surprising indeed if the imprint of religious and political discrimination were not

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Doubts on new policy for the Rhine

From General Sir David Fraser

Sir, In your article, "Rethink on the Rhine" (August 17) you propose:

1. That the West German Army assume responsibility for the operational sector of Allied Command Central Europe now entrusted to the British Army.

2. That the British Corps in Northern Army Group should be held as a tactical reserve" and should, in some way, be determined, to be reduced in size.

3. That Headquarters, British Army of the Rhine, should be abolished "with further savings in headquarters costs", at least I think that is what you propose, in your reference to "no one-over-one relationship between HQ BAOR and HQ First British Corps"; although since you link this point to the likely loss (under your policy) by Britain of the Northern Army Group Command – a completely different issue

These issues, quite simply, are how a democratically-run party, the first to elect its leader by the votes of all members, shall arrive at the content of its manifesto. The effect of the amendment would give final authority to the standing committee of the party, of which the leader is a member.

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It would also spread responsibility for the manifesto's content, and spread the range of party opinion which contributes to it. This year, all the discontent about the programme for the recent general election has fallen on Mr Steel. If the whole of an elected body were involved that responsibility would be spread, and the main debate could be on issues and not personalities.

Those of us who support this amendment wish to openly debate the issues it raises. In the absence of any word from Mr Steel himself, his "friends" would do well to join that debate, and to abstain from childish threats.

Yours sincerely,
COLIN DARRACOTT, Chairman,
London Region Liberal Party,
The Liberal Centre,
30 St James Road, SE17.

August 17.

Buildings on the list

From Mr Richard J. Griffith

Sir, The remit of the new Historic Buildings Commission is wider than your editorial (August 11) suggests. Its principal task is "to secure the preservation of ancient monuments and historic buildings situated in England."

The 400 buildings directly in its care are only the tip of the iceberg; even if one added all grade I listed buildings they would together amount to fewer than 6,000 properties, or barely 2 per cent of all buildings over which there is statutory "heritage" control. That total is about 283,000 buildings and will soon be substantially increased by the survey now in progress. The commission can advise the Secretary of State on the administration of all these protected buildings.

The new commissioners might therefore consider recommending to the Secretary of State the establishment of such a register as a modest and welcome administrative reform.

Yours faithfully,
RICHARD J. GRIFFITH,
5 The Circus,
Bath, Avon.

August 17.

Saving youth hostels

From Councillor L. J. F. Preddy

Sir, It is one of the present day ironies that in an age of increasing leisure time available, especially to young people, the Youth Hostels Association should be recording a decline in membership and overnight stays. This has reached the point where remote hostels are no longer economic and may have to be closed.

Whilst Youth Training Scheme labour can continue to be used for the maintenance of these hostels, more importantly the Government should be encouraged into introducing a scheme providing for the issue of vouchers to young people who

take part in the Youth Training Scheme for substantial reductions in the costs of overnight stays at hostels.

This could be introduced on either an individual or a team basis as part of a reward system. No doubt British Rail with their more flexible marketing policy could be associated with the scheme to provide reduced rate travel.

The primary objectives of the Youth Training Scheme would, therefore, be extended on a wider basis with wider benefits.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN PREDDY, Deputy Leader,
East Sussex County Council,
12/14 Broad Street,
Seaford, East Sussex.

August 17.

Body and mind

From Dr Thomas Price

Sir, Your editorial of August 10 seems to have been talking to people who see some sort of divergence between David Owen's views on candidate selection for the European elections and those of SDP members at grass roots level.

Few doctors would dispute that the indiscriminate prescription of powerful and expensive drugs is an unsatisfactory practice. The alternative, however, is to utilize that even more costly and scarce resource – time.

We should all welcome the opportunity to spend more time with our patients but this may not be possible where revenue cuts and delays in appointing replacement staffs have led to ever increasing waiting lists.

In the field of rheumatology,

chronic disease is the rule rather than the exception and time spent

explaining the nature of their condition to patients is worth a thousand pills.

There are still, however, sixty districts in this country which have no rheumatologists

therefore who are denied the accurate diagnosis and skilled treatment that their patients deserve.

Your criticism should rather be directed at Government policies. Repeated cuts in expenditure are continuing to deny too many citizens the care and attention they deserve.

Yours faithfully,

THOMAS PRICE,
38 Flanders Road, W4.

August 12.

Engineering awards

From Dr G. B. R. Feilden, FRS

Sir, On behalf of the Fellowship of Engineering and the Commissioners of the 1851 Exhibition, I am preparing as comprehensive a list as possible of United Kingdom engineering awards. This will include medals, sponsorships, scholarships and exhibitions, and prizes in every branch of engineering and related technologies.

The list will be published by the Fellowship as an indexed reference book in the autumn.

The list will contain the replies we

have had from schools, colleges,

universities, polytechnics, institutions and charitable trusts, as well as those from many firms manufacturing engineering products.

Yours faithfully,

DAVID LILLEY,

49 Blaize Road,

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COURT CIRCULAR

CLARENCE HOLLOW
August 17: Mrs Webster had the honour of being received by Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother on 13th August when Her Majesty, on behalf of The Queen, decorated her with the Royal Victorian Medal (Silver).

Forthcoming marriages

Mr J. L. Beynon
and Dr A. M. Monahan
The engagement is announced between John Lang, son of Dr and Mrs J. L. Beynon, of Brighton, Sussex, and Ann Maria, daughter of Mr and Mrs P. J. Monahan, of Gitters Cross, Buckinghamshire, and Kilburn, Enfield, co. Essex.

Mr R. N. Bunting
and Miss A. White

The engagement is announced between Robert Norman, only son of Mr and Mrs C. Bunting, of Carlton-in-Lindrick, and Ann, only daughter of Mr and Mrs J. S. White, Manor Farm, Thorpe Salvin.

Mr A. S. Grabiner, QC
and Miss J. A. Portnoy

The engagement is announced between Anthony, elder son of Mr and Mrs Ralph Grabiner, of London, and Jane, elder daughter of Dr and Mrs Benjamin Portnoy, of Hale, Cheshire.

Mr C. H. Maybury
and Miss S. A. D. Don

The engagement is announced between Charles, son of the late B. C. Maybury, FRCS, and Miss I. W. Maybury, of Weston Corbett House, Hampshire, and Sally, second daughter of Mr and Mrs Gavin Don, of Gardyne Castle, Forfar.

Mr H. P. Trevor-Jones
and Miss C. M. Law

The engagement is announced between Hugh, elder son of Mr and Mrs Philip Trevor-Jones, of Church Freeth, Shropshire, and Carol, elder daughter of Lieutenant-Colonel and Mrs John Law, of Rheindahlen, Germany, and Fellows.

Mr M. P. Webster-Trussell
and Miss C. L. Hurrell

The engagement is announced between Michael, son of Mr and Mrs D. Webster-Trussell, of Broomhill, Sheffield, and Christine, eldest daughter of the late Mr and Mrs J. I. Hurrell, of Norwich.

Marriage

Mr K. C. Sampson
and Miss L. M. Trapnell

The marriage took place quietly in Richmond on July 20 between Mr Kenneth Clement Sampson and Miss Linda Mary Trapnell, followed by a service of blessing at St Andrew's, Ham Common.

Christening

The infant daughter of Mr and Mrs Christopher Sokoł was baptised Alexandra Emily Anna, by Monsignor A. W. Gilbey at Seale Priory on Saturday, August 13.

Science report

Three groups make cancer finding

By Pearce Wright, Science Editor

A fundamental discovery about how normal cells turn into cancerous ones has been made independently by three medical research teams, one in Britain and two in the United States. The results show that the development of cancer is at least a two-stage event, and periods of weeks or even years may elapse between the first and second part of the process.

The conclusions are remarkable because the three research groups have used separate experimental methods which in effect support each other's work.

Their experiments demonstrate that cells grown in laboratory culture can be made to become cancerous by two distinct genetic alterations. The malignancy of the cultures was tested by infecting laboratory rats and mice.

The details of the experiments are the subject of technically dense papers published in the latest issue of *Nature*. Their findings add to

the bedrock of understanding needed if imaginatively new methods for the early diagnosis and treatment of cancer are to evolve.

The discovery also offers physicians an explanation in terms of what is happening in the cell, of their observations that many forms of cancer seem to involve several stages of growth but with unpredictable intervals between them.

The evidence obtained by Dr Robert Newbold and Dr Robert Overell at the chemical carcinogenesis section of the Institute of Cancer Research, Chalfont St Giles, Buckinghamshire, was from cultures of skin cells of hamsters. They were a type which had been shown in previous research to be altered when exposed to certain chemical substances, but not changed enough to acquire the properties of cancer cells.

Four groups of these cell cultures were treated in a new research with a strand of DNA which was a replica of

the human bladder cancer gene discovered last year.

In cells previously treated with chemical carcinogens (cancer-causing agents), the addition of the replica of the strand of bladder cancer DNA stimulated the transformation to malignancy. Cells not previously exposed to a chemical carcinogen were not made cancerous but with unpredictable intervals between them.

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There was no doubt that there was evidence of dures which established that his mind was overborne by it. He was prevented from putting that evidence.

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Television

Preparing for real

Flight sergeants, like all sergeants, are well known for versatility, and might confide that without them the officer corps could well not survive. Fit Sgt Harry Parkinson, for instance, simulating the plight of a pilot trying to escape in hostile territory in BBC1's *Tomorrow's World at Large* last night, was required to display a histrionic talent and did so in a manner that might have made any watching producer sit up.

The pilot audience enjoyed it. This was the first week of their combat survival course at RAF Mountbatten, Plymouth. Parkinson, on the classroom stage, Fit Sgt Parkinson had obviously done it all before and he was good value.

His pupils had little to laugh about in their second week, cast out on Dartmoor with minimal rations, dingshies and parachutes, making their own backpacks, learning to snare and kill game, hungry, wet and wretched. Even in peacetime, apparently, a fast-jet pilot can expect to eject once; in wartime, obviously, the odds-increase. At Plymouth they prepare them for the real thing in hostile circumstances.

Tomorrow's World's Peter Macann went along for the programme's pride and was half of one of the seven teams. He found it "tough, very tough" - and he did not have to complete it. After the part where they had taken cover to attempt to evade the hunter-packs of Royal Marines, he had to withdraw, reprieved by the Official Secrets Act which required the next part of the proceedings, the interrogation, to be off-screen.

Briefing the Marines, the course C.O. cautioned against overrealism. The pilots, he said, were "rather expensive beasts". It cost about £2m. to train a Jaguar pilot these days and he would like them back flying as soon as possible. The Marines got on with it, flushing most of the fugitives, plodding them face down in the earth, kicking their legs apart and blinding them. If the Marines were on their best behaviour, their subjects may not have thought so.

All the pilots, successful in evasion or not, were taken off for the interrogation which was, apparently, realistic enough for some to cry, others to ask to withdraw and some to be withdrawn on medical grounds.

Without all that Peter Macann lost a stone. What the others gained or lost in this game, no less grim for the service jokiness, we are not to know. I hope they are still glad they volunteered.

Dennis Hackett

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Ponyboy (C. Thomas Howell, left) lays plans with fellow greasers Steve (Tom Cruise) and Two-Bit (Emilio Estevez) in *The Outsiders*

Cinema

Enthralling appeal to old-time sentiment

The Outsiders (PG)

Warner West End; Classic, Oxford Street; Cinecenta, Panton Street

WarGames (PG)

Odeon, Leicester Square

It will not be at all fashionable to admire Francis Ford Coppola's newest film, *The Outsiders*, because it is not a fashionable film. Its style originates in film-making traditions from the distant past of movie history. Its method is to work upon the sentiments, and that is something that has been out of favour with British audiences for a long time. The new audiences like to feel the effects of film in their viscera, not in their tear-ducts. But, if they are to be touched, then they want it done with a convincing impression of realism. If they catch themselves allowing their sentiments to be affected by some evident artifice, they are resentful of the pack.

"I wanted to take those young street rats," says Coppola, "and give them heroic proportions." He achieves this - despite the film's title - by returning to the heroic eras of the cinema. He imbues his film with the fatalism of *You Only Live Once* or *The Mill on the Floss* or a good *Bohème* or *Madame X* or *The Kid* or *All Quiet on the Western Front* or *A Star Is Born*, there is a lack in us. If we do, it is certainly nothing shameful or unhealthy. *E.T.* was a master of pride to have cried at *E.T.*; and that did something to shake the locks on imprisoned British sentiment. Not sufficiently, I guess, to gain acceptance for the sentimental purposes of *The Outsiders*.

The film is based on a 1966 best-seller in the American "young adult" market, written by S. E. Hinton. The genderless signature belonged to a young woman who set out to write a novel about her despair at the senselessness of the ritual warfare waged by the young males she met in schooldays in the early Sixties. The

story gives the film a superficial resemblance to *Rebel Without a Cause* and the teenage films that followed it; but the comparison is misleading. Those films tried to give their characters some sort of social context. They were fighting a society in which they felt themselves outsiders, but still wanted a place. There was a conflict between the generations, a natural rebellion of the young against parents and against authority.

In Coppola's film society at large is not hostile to Ponyboy (C. Thomas Howell) and Johnny (Ralph Macchio); for the most part it is content just not to know they are there. Their misfortunes are their parents - dead in Johnny's. Coppola wants to show more elemental conflicts than in Nicholas Ray's film, in the feuding between the Greasers, from the wrong side of the tracks, and the Socs, boys from the affluent middle class, and between the boys' innate good nature and good sense and the aggressiveness demanded of them by the group-instinct of the pack.

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innocence and responsiveness of childhood, of which some vestige has still remained in these two. Coppola has set out to recreate the experience of an age when movies and their audiences were younger, and the combination of the story, the images, the music and the words carried them off into new regions of imagination and sentiment. For this unfashionable spectator, he succeeds.

The message of *WarGames* is very much the same as that of *The Outsiders*. The principal character in the film is a computer in the United States Combined Operations Center with a facility for learning from its own mistakes, and mastery of a variety of games including Thermonuclear War. At the climax of the film it has taken matters into its own hands and is about to annihilate the Soviet Union. The catastrophe is ingeniously averted by setting the computer to compete with itself at noughts and crosses. This pulls the creature up short with the puzzling discovery: "A strange game: the only way to win is not to play".

It is a useful moral for a nuclear age: and the enormous box-office attraction of the film shows that it is a very popular one among the threatened masses. *WarGames* to an extent is able to hide its own sentimentality behind the great mass of electronic machinery which, rather more comprehensively demonstrated here than in, say, *Tron*, is as intriguing to older generations as to the computer-age young.

The hero is a lad who does not make very good grades at school, yet is a wizard with his home electronic gadgetry (he has even bugged the school computer so that he can improve his grades). One day he accidentally links into the operations room computer, and playfully punches in fictitious information about a Soviet attack on Seattle and Las Vegas. The boy is hauled in by the FBI, and the Third World War is on its way when the youngster saves the day by teaching the old dog its instructive new trick.

It is a fable of exemplary simplicity, related with verve and suspense under John Badham's direction. Essentially a children's story - which accounts for its logic and good sense - it clearly has a very broad audience appeal: to prove it,

the book of the film is available in both Penguin and Puffin (respectively £1.50 and £1.25), though the editions are identical apart from the pictures on the covers).

The National Film Theatre recently took a poll among members of the British Film Institute to discover their 30 favourite films, and these have now been programmed into a season which will begin on September 3. The members, God bless them, have presented themselves with a selection of films which is awfully nice, predictable and unadventurous. There are a couple of good *Rebels*, a good *Ford* (*The Grapes of Wrath*) and an overblown one (*The Searchers*); but after that the choice is dispiritingly middle-of-the-road, middle-class, middle-brow and bland. It is the kind of programme that circulates endlessly round the repertory cinemas.

There are no films made to tease and disturb and stir, no *Buñuel*, no *Pasolini*, no *Anderson*. There are no films before 1935, and no silent films at all. NFT patrons - despite the theatre's years of work - have no historical perspective. There is no Eisenstein, no Griffith, no Chaplin, no Stroheim, no Clair, no Lang, no Sternberg, no Vigo, no Jennings, no Dovzhenko, Mizoguchi, no Fellini, Pudovkin, Satyajit Ray; not even W. C. Fields or the Marx Brothers. At the top of the list is *Casablanca*, a lucky strike of the journeyman Michael Curtiz. In second place comes *Les Enfants du Paradis*, in third *Citizen Kane*. After that the preference is for musicals and colourful spectacle. There is nothing wrong in themselves with the films in the season; but the selection and the omissions give pause.

It is rather as if a similar poll on great literature were to reach back no further than Edgar Wallace, and even then leave out Joyce and Eliot. In such a case we might worry about the state of the national culture; and this pleasant list of films must make the British Film Institute, who are just now celebrating 50 years of trying to build a film culture, wonder if the effort has been worthwhile.

David Robinson

South Bank Summer Music

Amadeus Quartet

Queen Elizabeth Hall

One of the largest audiences so far at South Bank Summer Music assembled on Wednesday to hear the Amadeus Quartet; and not surprisingly, for the name and the musicianship hardly have to shout to make themselves heard. It is the more disquieting, then, that of late that is exactly what seems to be happening.

There is still so much to admire, qualities in this quartet's playing that it is even tempting to take for granted: the spontaneous fusion of delight and high seriousness, for instance, in the geometrical puzzle of the Allegretto of Beethoven's Op 95 F minor Quartet; the weight of rhythmic unanimity churning the asymmetry of its third movement and the finale of Brahms's Op 51 No 2; the flux of tempo and timbre within the same shared impetus in the slow movements.

But these qualities now glint and arrest the ear only to be smothered in an impetus which substitutes external ardour for internal, disciplined energy, and dissipates argument by squandering what is subordinate rather than using it to sharpen or offset the main thrust.

Whether periodic technical clumsiness is due to ill-health or to a lack of rehearsal, the audience cannot know; but it is not pleasant to find oneself waiting for the next pre-echo or bracing oneself against the coarse reply or riposte which, as in the o'ning of the Beethoven,

merely stings where it should sting.

The Brahms suffered least: its contours were merely exaggerated at times, its part-writing polarized but always alert and alive. If the spirit had a clear win over the letter here, then in the Haydn Op 77 No 1 Quartet, which opened the evening, the letter was too crudely articulated for the spirit to resist distortion. What started out as a potentially agreeable bluff rhythmic humour soon became monotonous, as phrases were allowed to bulge out of shape; and the Presto served only to reveal the invalidity of sound without due respect for silence.

Hilary Finch

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Theatre

Taste of America

Agnes of God

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Parthenogenesis is good box-office, I am sure. But the playwright John Pielmeier has taken no chances and filled out his study of a young novice's mysterious conception and infanticide with psychoanalysis, domineering mothers, smoking problems, girls obsessed with being overweight or unattractive ("I left the Church because I had freckles"), a singing nun, menstruation and every other interest of the New York theatre-going public, for whom the Roman Catholic Church is potentially enough by itself.

In London, his play seems a strange specimen indeed, even in a serious production by Frank Hauser (no less) built around an impeccably intense performance by Susannah York as a psychiatrist who is ostensibly brought in to assess young Sister Agnes's sanity, but whose real task is to strengthen the proceedings with a shrink's crisis of faith similar to the one which proved so profitable in *Equus*.

She is an atheist who can now have no children, who saw her sister left to die of acute appendicitis in a convent, who went to see Garbo's *Camille* five or six times in the hope that a different last reel might avert the tragedy, and is still searching for something to produce happy endings. Confront her with a Mother Superior (Honor Blackman, unrecognizable in coif, habit and rasping Irish accent) who has her own claim of motherhood over the girl, and you have a situation which can look as though it has the stuff of drama and over which enough intellectual tie-ups can be cross-hatched to dazzle the stalls public and leave them with the impression that something significant is being said.

Anthony Masters

Promenade Concert

City of London Sinfonia/Hickox

Albert Hall/Radio 3

Colin Matthews's *Night Music* is not a new piece. It was first heard in 1977 and published the following year; the BBC recorded it not long ago; it has been played in Europe and America. Which makes it the kind of work we ought to hear more of at the Proms - one with something of a track record, rather than a commissioned bolt from the blue. Matthews dedicated it to the memory of Deryck Cooke, who died while the piece was being written. The composer says this "no doubt influenced its somewhat elegiac mood", but on this occasion there was more of the dour, monochrome colouring suggested by the title than any feeling of elation.

Indeed *Night Music* seems to be looking for a darkened melody in a pitchblack room:

over obsessive low piano, punctuating chords from the wind (some attacked by louder horn calls), a difficult texture to balance well), fragments emerge: a rising flute passage, a sudden whisking aside of a curtain of strings to reveal busy

Nicholas Kenyon

wind activity. (This last move into a new section was punctuated to the bar-line by what sounded like the yelp of an unruly promenading dog in the gallery.) The material recurs, expressively varied around a central section, but not until the last *adagio molto* does a ghost of a tune emerge into the light, only to evaporate at the close.

Under Richard Hickox, the score was projected soberly, accurately (a few awkwardnesses in the wind and one trumpet fluff aside) but without quite making its 20-minute stretch cohere. Hickox was more successful at capturing the splendidly spiky qualities of Brinen's *Sinfonietta*, Op 1, with its two soaring violins over grunted basses a remarkable anticipation of sounds to come half a century later. Antony Pay (who recently conducted the Britten well) gave a disappointing account of Mozart's Clarinet Concerto, ill at ease with tuning in the Allegro and slowing the *solo voce* return in the Adagio sentimentally. At the end, Beethoven's First Symphony: a lithic, energetic but not especially perceptive account very well played.

David Robinson

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Price	Chg	Yield

BRITISH FUNDS

SHORTS	1982/83	1983	1984	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031	2032	2033	2034	2035	2036	2037	2038	2039	2040	2041	2042	2043	2044	2045	2046	2047	2048	2049	2050	2051	2052	2053	2054	2055	2056	2057	2058	2059	2060	2061	2062	2063	2064	2065	2066	2067	2068	2069	2070	2071	2072	2073	2074	2075	2076	2077	2078	2079	2080	2081	2082	2083	2084	2085	2086	2087	2088	2089	2090	2091	2092	2093	2094	2095	2096	2097	2098	2099	20100	20101	20102	20103	20104	20105	20106	20107	20108	20109	20110	20111	20112	20113	20114	20115	20116	20117	20118	20119	20120	20121	20122	20123	20124	20125	20126	20127	20128	20129	20130	20131	20132	20133	20134	20135	20136	20137	20138	20139	20140	20141	20142	20143	20144	20145	20146	20147	20148	20149	20150	20151	20152	20153	20154	20155	20156	20157	20158	20159	20160	20161	20162	20163	20164	20165	20166	20167	20168	20169	20170	20171	20172	20173	20174	20175	20176	20177	20178	20179	20180	20181	20182	20183	20184	20185	20186	20187	20188	20189	20190	20191	20192	20193	20194	20195	20196	20197	20198	20199	20200	20201	20202	20203	20204	20205	20206	20207	20208	20209	20210	20211	20212	20213	20214	20215	20216	20217	20218	20219	20220	20221	20222	20223	20224	20225	20226	20227	20228	20229	20230	20231	20232	20233	20234	20235	20236	20237	20238	20239	20240	20241	20242	20243	20244	20245	20246	20247	20248	20249	20250	20251	20252	20253	20254	20255	20256	20257	20258	20259	20260	20261	20262	20263	20264	20265	20266	20267	20268	20269	20270	20271	20272	20273	20274	20275	20276	20277	20278	20279	20280	20281	20282	20283	20284	20285	20286	20287	20288	20289	20290	20291	20292	20293	20294	20295	20296	20297	20298	20299	20300	20301	20302	20303	20304	20305	20306	20307	20308	20309	20310	20311	20312	20313	20314	20315	20316	20317	20318	20319	20320	20321	20322	20323	20324	20325	20326	20327	20328	20329	20330	20331	20332	20333	20334	20335	20336	20337	20338	20339	20340	20341	20342	20343	20344	20345	20346	20347	20348	20349	20350	20351	20352	20353	20354	20355	20356	20357	20358	20359	20360	20361	20362	20363	20364	20365	20366	20367	20368	20369	20370	20371	20372	20373	20374	20375	20376	20377	20378	20379	20380	20381	20382	20383	20384	20385	20386	20387	20388	20389	20390	20391	20392	20393	20394	20395	20396	20397	20398	20399	20400	20401	20402	20403	20404	20405	20406	20407	20408	20409	20410	20411	20412	20413	20414	20415	20416	20417	20418	20419	20420	20421	20422	20423	20424	20425	20426	20427	20428	20429	20430	20431	20432	20433	20434	20435	20436	20437	20438	20439	20440	20441	20442	20443	20444	20445	20446	20447	20448	20449	20450	20451	20452	20453	20454	20455	20456	20457	20458	20459	20460	20461	20462	20463	20464	20465	20466	20467	20468	20469	20470	20471	20472	20473	20474	20475	20476	20477	20478	20479	20480	20481	20482	20483	20484	20485	20486	20487	20488	20489	20490	20491	20492	20493	20494	20495	20496	20497	20498	20499	20500	20501	20502	20503	20504	20505	20506	20507	20508	20509	20510	20511	20512	20513	20514	20515	20516	20517	20518	20519	20520	20521	20522	20523	20524	20525	20526	20527	20528	20529	20530	20531	20532	20533	20534	20535	20536	20537	20538	20539	20540	20541	20542	20543	20544	20545	20546	20547	20548	20549	20550	20551	20552	20553	20554	20555	20556	20557	20558	20559	20560	20561	20562	20563	20564	20565	20566	20567	20568	20569	20570	20571	20572	20573	20574	20575	20576	20577	20578	20579	20580	20581	20582	20583	20584	20585	20586	20587	20588	20589	20590	20591	20592	20593	20594	20595	20596	20597	20598	20599	20600	20601	20602	20603	20604	20605	20606	20607	20608	20609	20610	20611	20612	20613	20614	20615	20616	20617	20618	20619	20620	20621	20622	20623	20624	20625	20626	20627	20628	20629	20630	20631	20632	20633	20634	20635	20636	20637	20638	20639	20640</th

Investment and Finance

City Editor
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THE TIMES

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STOCK EXCHANGES

FT Index: 738.9 up 2.9
FT Gilts: 79.63 down 0.15
FT All Share: 465.74 up 1.37
Bargains: 21, 222
Datatracker USM Leaders
Index: 103.86 up 0.56
New York Dow Jones
Average (lastest): 1,204.40 up
0.10
Tokyo Nikkei Dow Jones
Index: 9,089.58 up 79.50
Hongkong: Hang Seng
Index: 1,000.90 down 24.23
Amsterdam: 152.50 down
1.40
Sydney: AO Index 685.30 up
6.20
Frankfurt: Commerzbank
Index 952.50 up 4.30
Brussels: General Index
132.74 up 1.23
Paris: CAC Index 134.30 up
2.40
Zurich: SKA General 292.60
up 0.10

CURRENCIES

LONDON CLOSE
Sterling \$1.5235 up 1.05
cents
Index 85.5 up 0.3
DM 4.0150 up 0.0150
Fr 12.0825 up 0.0450
Yen 97.26 up 1.25
Dollar
Index 127.6 unchanged
DM 2.6330
NEW YORK LATEST
Sterling \$1.5250
INTERNATIONAL
ECU 0.566801
SDR 0.697385

INTEREST RATES

Domestic rates
Bank base rates 9 1/2
Finance houses base rate 10
Discount market loans week
fixed 9 1/4
3 month interbank 9 7/8-9 3/4
Euro-currency rates:
3 month dollar 10-10 1/4
3 month DM 5 1/2-5 3/4
3 month Fr 15 1/4-14 1/4
US rates
Bank prime rate 11.00
Fed funds 9 1/2
Treasury long bond 103.15/32-
103.19/32
ECGD Fixed Rate Sterling
Export Finance Scheme IV
Average reference rate for
interest period July 8 to August
2, 1983 inclusive: 9.969 per
cent.

GOLD

London fixed (per ounce):
am \$421 pm \$421.50
close \$422-\$422.75 (2277.5) up \$0.75
New York Interact: \$421.50
Kruegerand (per coin):
\$433-438.50 (2285.50-2288.50)
Sovereigns (new):
\$99-\$100 (665-66.75)
*Excludes VAT

ANNUAL MEETINGS

Ariel Industries, Allen House,
Newarks Street, Leicester
(4.00)
Chamberlain Phipps, The
Manor House, Highgate, Farnham,
Northamptonshire (2.30)
John J. Lee, Albany Hotel,
Bathwell Street, Glasgow
(12.00)
May & Hassell, Grand Hotel,
Broad Street, Bristol (noon)
Nesco Investments, 44,
Bloomsbury Square, WC1
(12.00)

TODAY

Interim: Algemene Bank
Nederland, Charles Baynes,
Senford Concrete Machinery,
English and Scottish Investors,
Gt Asia (Sterling) Fund (quarterly),
Leisuretime International.
Finals: WG Allen and Sons
(Tipton), Mining Supplies, Pifco,
Press Tools, Waring and Gillow,
Wholesale Fittings.
Economic statistics: Sales and
orders in the engineering
industries (May). Finished steel
consumption and stock
changes (second quarter -
provisional).

NOTEBOOK

Philips, the Dutch electrical giant,
based its interim net profits from
200 million guilders to 250 million
(\$57.6m), while sales volume rose
by 10.1% in the year. But both sales
of, and profits from, consumer
goods are still under pressure and
the company does not expect
overall net profit for the year to
grow by the forecast 4.5 per cent.
The joint agreements with AT & T in
digital switching systems and with
Warner and Siemens in recorded
music are progressing.

page 14

• The 10 Trustee Savings
Banks (TSBs) in England and
Wales, which have over 1,200
branches, are to amalgamate
into a bank called TSB England
and Wales on November 21.
The four Scottish TSBs com-
bined to form TSB Scotland in
May. Legislation to convert the
TSBs into a companies act
structure is well advanced.

Sterling M3 still double Treasury's target Fall in money supply growth will continue, says Government

By Peter Wilson-Smith

The Government reassured financial markets yesterday that it was bringing money supply back under control in an attempt to allay any remaining fears of higher interest rates.

The Treasury said that it expected the annualized rate of money growth to continue to fall in the months ahead.

All three main measures of money supply are still running well ahead of the Government's 7 to 11 per cent target range in the February-July period. But final money supply figures for last month, published yesterday by the Bank of England, confirmed that monetary growth slowed sharply in July after the previous month's surge.

Sterling M3, the most widely watched measure of broad money supply, is still increasing at an annualized rate of 14.7 per cent.

However, the detailed figures

MONEY GROWTH		CAPITAL EXPENDITURE	
July	%	Feb-July	annual rate %
M1	-0.4	14.9	1982
PSL	0.8	15.5	1982 Q1
Target band Feb 1983 to April 1984 at annual rate 7 to 11	0.7	15.5	Q2
			Q3
			Q4
			1983 Q1
			Q2 (P)
			(P) Provisional

published yesterday confirm that the main expansionary impetus was coming from the public sector's high level of borrowing.

The Government managed to soften the impact of this in July with the high level of government debt sales. Government debt sales of £1.1bn in mostly gilt-edged stocks were the highest since last November.

The low level of bank lending

published yesterday also helped the Government to get closer to its targets in July. Seasonally-adjusted bank lending rose by only £300m.

Government officials believe there is little sign of a resurgence in demand loans to the private sector to remove lingering fears about higher interest rates in the United Kingdom.

However, other official statistics out yesterday may add to

doubts about the strength of the economic recovery.

Cyclical indicators for the economy which are supposed to give early signs of changes in economic activity show almost no change in the longer leading index between April and July.

The Central Statistical Office said it was impossible to tell whether this was more than a temporary hesitation in the previous rise in the index.

The latest figures on capital spending for the second quarter of the year also show investment in the economy stagnating.

One mildly optimistic sign is that manufacturing industry investment has picked up slightly, but from a low base.

Industry's stock levels also fell in the second quarter of the year. A small rise had been expected, but the provisional estimate for manufacturers, retailers and wholesalers stocks increased a fall of £155m.

City Editor's Comment

Keeping confidence in the Commission

Mr Nigel Brookes, chairman of Trafalgar House, intends next month to press for publication of the evidence his side has submitted to the Monopolies Commission which is sitting in judgment on his proposed acquisition of P&O, the shipping group.

That quality will surely not improve if principals begin to submit evidence, not in confidence, but with an eye instead to eventual publication.

Holmes à Court reminder

The appearance in London this weekend of Mr Robert Holmes à Court will remind investors that there are some takeover bids he sees through to the end.

He is here on business with Associated Communications Corporation, the former Lord Grade company he bought lock stock and film rights against all odds early last year.

His takeover of ACC set a pattern which has become increasingly his own: he bought a small stake ownership of which filtered out and became public knowledge.

The pattern seems to be repeated at Fleet Holdings, the national newspaper and magazine group headed by Lord Matthews.

Mr Holmes à Court has built up a stake which his aids confirm is now 3 1/2 per cent. He has held about 2 per cent of the group for sometime but has been buying more recently.

Aggressor amidst the fleet

Last month, what was regarded as the "parental protection" stock held by Trafalgar House, Fleet's former parent company, was cancelled.

It effectively allowed Trafalgar to convert £15m loan stock into about 40 per cent of Fleet shares in the event of a takeover bid, and was designed to keep the infant Fleet independent until it began maturing.

Even without this protection, any takeover intentions by Mr Holmes à Court looks premature, although he is offended by the suggestion that he would sooner walk away from a situation with profit than make a full scale bid.

But the sceptics were out in the stock market yesterday where Fleet holdings, emerged 18 months ago at 21p a share, fell back 3p to 119p. Even at this level, Mr Holmes à Court is still showing a profit.

Oceonics goes for full listing

By Wayne Linton

Oceonics Group, the marine electronics company, has applied for a full listing on the Stock Exchange. At present it is the second largest company on the Unlisted Securities Market.

Simultaneously, it is placing 1,750,000 new shares and 3 million 10% per cent cumulative shares, redeemable in 1993, to raise a total of £7.6m.

The shares of the company jumped 67p on the news to 370p, a new peak taking into consideration the one-for-one scrip issue made last March when the group announced its intentions to apply for a full listing.

The group is to close the National Steel Foundry (1914) at Leven, Fife, which employs 294 people. A further 30 jobs will go when Lake & Elliot Jacks Equipment closes in Braintree, Essex.

High-technology interests have been absorbing £10m a year in capital investment.

Two Lake & Elliot plants to go

By Wayne Linton

Lake & Elliot, the steel casting company, yesterday announced the closure of two steel foundries involving the write-down of £4m of assets and the loss of more than 300 jobs.

The closures are necessary after a further collapse in demand since Lazard Brothers, the merchant bank, completed a scheme this year to cut excess capacity in the industry.

Mr Peter Edwards, chairman, said in a statement to shareholders that the fall in demand for British foundry products has exceeded the reduction in the industry's capacity after implementation of the Lazard scheme.

The group is to close the National Steel Foundry (1914) at Leven, Fife, which employs 294 people. A further 30 jobs will go when Lake & Elliot Jacks Equipment closes in Braintree, Essex.

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Following the invasion of Chad by Libyan troops and with the conflict in Central America showing no signs of easing, a significant decline in the gold price is unlikely and the substantial technical support around \$400 should limit any fall," he says.

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He believes this will be counterbalanced by uncertainty over American interest rates

SOURCE: Jeremy Warner reports on an unusual meeting

Lunchtime rescue bid fails to satisfy chairman of TKM

It could have been any expense-account lunch – four men, a secluded table at the Savoy, four courses, two wines and a large bill at the end.

But this was no ordinary business meeting. They were talking big money – up to £70m. The aim was no less ambitious than the refinancing of a once prosperous international trading group now overburdened by a mountain of debt, supported by its bankers, and with no hope of trading its way into securer pastures.

Ranged round the table were the chairman of British Car Auctions, Mr David Wickins, fresh from his success in helping to save Group Lotus, the Norfolk sports-car company; Mr Stephen Evans from the stockbrokers Anderson & Co and Mr Murdoch Morrison, a freelance corporate financier.

Their guest was Sir Montague Prichard, chairman of Tozer Kemsley and Millbourne, the deeply troubled motor distribution and property group. It was his company they were discussing.

Sir Montague was installed as chairman of TKM last Christmas. He had been a director for many years. In the preceding years the group, which had once recorded pretax profits of £16m, made an attributable loss of £26m, while net debt, at £100m, had spiralled to seven times the value of shareholders' funds.

Mr Kenneth Thorogood, the former chairman, and the ex-Slater Walker man Mr Malcolm Horsman, who had been managing director for two years, left abruptly.

Sir Montague listened with a mixture of hope and incredulity as his fellow diners discussed a plan that might all but wipe out the group's £100m banking debt.

The three men claimed to speak for a group of shareholders together accounting for more than 50 per cent of TKM's share capital.

The plan was to raise an initial £13.5m via a one-for-all rights issue. This would be underwritten by financial and industrial companies who were already shareholders in TKM.

"We cannot trade our way out of this position"

In addition they would subscribe an equal amount of new shares capital on top, taking the total raised to £27m.

They also wanted to see a strengthening of the TKM board of directors through promotion, from inside the group, of various executives in the subsidiary companies and through the appointments of outsiders.

But try as Sir Montague may, he could not persuade Mr Morrison or Mr Evans to disclose the identity of their clients or those prepared to put up the hard cash.

He knew that Anderson had, over a long period, put a lot of clients into TKM who were now nursing sizable paper losses on their investment.

He was also told that Mass Development of Kuwait with 9.5 per cent of TKM was a supporter of the scheme and that arm's length support was also being offered by Mr Kenneth Thorogood, who continues to hold more than 9 per cent of TKM, acquired in a controversial fashion in May 1981.

But without more information, Sir Montague could not take the plan seriously.

In any case, the deal would depend on TKM's legion of 86 bankers currently co-ordinated by a committee of those lending the company £5m or more cash under the chairmanship of National Westminster.

They would have to agree to convert at least £27m of their debt into some form of deferred equity like redeemable preference shares.

This is not such an unlikely prospect as it might seem since the lease of life granted to TKM by its bankers comes to an end next May. The idea of conversion had also originated from one of the larger lending banks.

This ambitious proposal had been put together by Morrison Associates, Several City pension



Thorogood (left) and Horsman: they left abruptly



Prichard (left) and Wickins: at cross purposes

funds and one big clearing bank were said to be committed to putting up the cash.

The lunch took place on July 9, but the proposal has yet to receive a decision from Sir Montague, who already takes merchant banking advice from Lazard.

"I am as aware as anyone that we cannot trade our way out of this position," he says. "It is obvious that we need capital reconstruction. But the bankers are likely to want to see further proof that we can trade profitably and successfully before they will agree to it."

The basic of the scheme as presented is worthy of being put to our bankers, but I have yet to see concrete proposals and the names of the people prepared to put up the money. I would also have preferred to have waited until next spring."

TKM was once primarily an international finance and confirming house, but during the late 1960s and most of the 1970s it went the way of most ambitious trading companies, expanding into a wide diversity of businesses by acquisition.

Though TKM never sparkled in the way some international traders did, all went well until 1979 when the group lost its lucrative BMW motor distributing franchise in Britain – a business that had contributed about £7m profits in that year.

In an effort to replace the lost earnings, it paid £26m for Wadham Stringer, a motor distributor which accounts for about a tenth of BL's British sales.

It proved to be a disastrous acquisition, bought at a time when car sales were plumping and finance costs were soaring. In 1980, Wadham Stringer, far from replacing earnings, actually lost £5m.

TKM was in trouble and it was clear that the wheeler-dealing ways of the past had to be put into reverse quickly.

But it was not until November 1981 that the group made its first divestment. The Overseas Services and Wings holiday business was sold to Rank Organization for £1.45m.

The following May the original confirming house business was sold to the Hongkong Bank for £19m. The loss-making McKee agricultural equipment and snow blowing offshoot in Canada was first merged with Imperial Group's Smedley-HP Foods business and then sold for just £1 to a private company with a better record in the industry.

This programme has left TKM with a slimmed-down Wadham Stringer, profitable franchises in Britain and France for the Japanese car makers Mazda and Daihatsu, substantial property interests in North America.

Changes at Barclays International

Barclays Bank International: Mr Peter Dodd, managing director of Barclays Asia in Hongkong, has been made general manager in Hongkong. Mr John Phillips, chief executive of the National Bank of Malawi, has been appointed managing director of Barclays Bank of Ghana and Mr Robert Bird, a general manager's assistant at the head office in London, is to become managing director of Barclays Bank of Botswana.

Massey-Ferguson has created four divisions out of the farm and industrial machinery division. Each will be headed by a president. Mr James Felker, president of the Perkins Engine division, becomes president of the tractors and farm equipment division. Mr John Sword, director of technical operations for Europe and world exports,

APPOINTMENTS

will be president of the industrial machinery division and Mr Adri Verhagen, formerly general manager for Australia, is to be president of the Australian division. Mr Felker is succeeded as president at Perkins Engines by Mr John Devaney.

The Young Vic: Mr Bernard Brook-Partridge has been named as chairman, in succession to Mr Jeffrey Sterling.

Mr Kenneth Fleet, who has resigned as deputy chairman, will be succeeded by Mr David Land. Mr Fleet is continuing to serve as a member of the board.

Electrocompteers: Mr David Jones is joining the board as an executive director on September 1.

SIEMENS

Information for Siemens shareholders

Respectable showing in stagnating markets

Although the international economic situation remained unsatisfactory during the first nine months – 1 October 1982 to 30 June 1983 – of the current financial year, Siemens recorded a 13% rise in new orders worldwide and a small 3% growth of sales as against last year's third-quarter totals. Orders in hand rose 11% to nearly £15,100m.

New orders. Business differed widely in domestic and international markets and among the various operating sectors.

New domestic orders increased 46% to £4,646m, due largely to two major power plant contracts. But even discounting the weight of these projects, domestic business brought in 7% more orders than in the same period last year. At £4,352m, new international orders remained 9% below last year's figure. Contributing to this result were the continuing stagnation of most industrial economies, balance of payment difficulties of several key client nations, and a slowing of infrastructure expansion in a number of oil producing countries.

Among the operating groups, Power Engineering and Automation was hardest hit by slow capital spending in many countries. By contrast, Communications – the other of the two large Siemens Groups – achieved slightly more orders in world markets than last year. Above-average growth of new orders was recorded by both the Data Systems Group and the Medical Engineering Group. The latter has already sold fifteen of its new nuclear magnetic resonance tomographs, nine of them to customers in the U.S.A.

Sales. Worldwide sales increased 3% over last year's third-quarter totals to £7,247m. Business developed somewhat more favourably at home than abroad: domestic sales rose 5% to £3,205m, while international sales were only 2% ahead of last year's figure at £4,042m. Data Systems and Medical Engineering were also the strongest Groups in sales, recording two-figure growth rates.

Inventory. Although inventories have increased 11% to £4,804m during the current financial year, this is due solely to major power plant contracts.

Employees. Underutilization continued to characterize most of the company's production facilities. Thus the number of employees could not remain entirely unaffected; worldwide, it declined 4% to 311,000. In the Federal Republic of Germany and Berlin (West) the reduction was 5%, and abroad 3% – a figure that would also

have been nearly 5% had the employees of a plant acquired by Siemens-Alaris not been added to the work force abroad. Employment cost went up 1% to £3,153m.

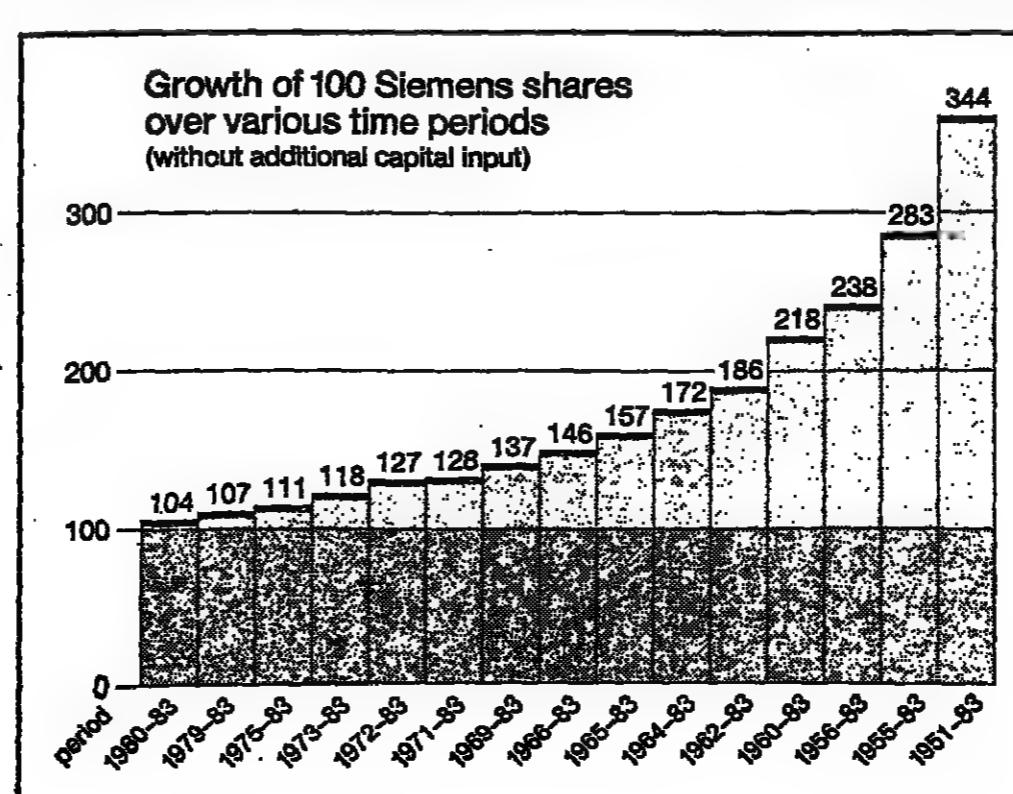
Capital expenditure and investment, at £283m, remained at last year's level.

Net income after taxes was £138m (last year: £119m), representing a net profit margin of 1.9% (last year: 1.7%).

In £m	1/10/81 to 30/6/82	1/10/82 to 30/6/83	Change
New orders	7,992	8,996	+13%
Domestic business	3,193	4,646	+46%
International business	4,799	4,352	-9%
Sales	7,005	7,247	+3%
Domestic business	3,041	3,205	+5%
International business	3,964	4,042	+2%
In £m	30/9/82	30/6/83	Change
Orders in hand	13,562	15,087	+11%
Inventory	4,313	4,804	+11%
in thousands	30/9/82	30/6/83	Change
Employees	324	311	-4%
Domestic operations	220	210	-5%
International operations	104	101	-3%
	1/10/81 to 30/6/82	1/10/82 to 30/6/83	Change
Average number of employees	391	316	-5%
in thousands			
Employment cost in £m	3,130	3,153	+1%
In £m	1/10/81 to 30/6/82	1/10/82 to 30/6/83	Change
Capital expenditure and investment	233	283	-
Net income after taxes	119	138	-
In % of sales	1.7	1.9	-

All amounts translated at Frankfurt middle rate on 30 June 1983: £1 = DM 3.892.

How does your Siemens investment grow?



Every few years, Siemens invites its shareholders to subscribe for new capital stock by issuing subscription rights. These rights may be exercised by shareholders to purchase new Siemens shares, even without investing additional capital of their own. The graph shows how these options can be applied to make 100 Siemens shares grow. The calculation assumes that each time there was a capital increase, enough subscription rights were sold by the shareholder to allow him to buy new shares with the proceeds alone. Thus from 1973 to 1983, his 100 shares have grown to 118. In 30 years' time, the number of shares has more than tripled. As a result, not only is the value of his portfolio bigger, but also the size of his annual dividend payment.

Siemens AG

In Great Britain: Siemens Ltd.
Siemens House, Windmill Road, Sunbury-on-Thames
Middlesex, TW16 7HS

As would-be cable television operators conclude their programming proposals and business forecasts for submission to the Home Office at the end of this month, advertisers are fighting to ensure that advertising revenue is not left out of the financial calculations, as it has been to a large extent in America.

In particular, they want to be able to advertise on the premium feature film channels, which are likely to win cable television's biggest audiences. This is not possible in the United States, where the absence of commercials has been one of pay cable's biggest selling points.

Whatever happens it seems certain that advertising agents will not have the same influence over cable broadcasting as they have on ITV.

With the bulk of potential revenue for cable operators coming direct from the viewer in the form of subscriptions and premium payments for specific channels and programmes, advertising is a low priority in the minds of most applicant groups.

Advertisers are concerned that if cable television in Britain follows the American pattern, with commercials excluded from the most popular television channels, they will see their existing ITV audiences fall and be unable to make up the loss by advertising on cable.

"You must allow advertising on your most popular channels," says advertising agency McCann-Erickson in an open letter to potential cable operators this week.

This has not happened in the United States for historical reasons and goes a long way to explain the apparent reluctance of advertisers there to use cable. But there is no reason why even premium channels should not carry advertisements. The viewer will appreciate that this will keep the subscription costs down. Viewers may or may not agree.

A report from another American-owned advertising agency, Young & Rubicam, spells out the failure of the cable business to attract advertising in the United States.

"Growth of advertising revenue for cable television has been disappointing: the level achieved in 1982 is estimated to have been about \$180m to \$200m, 119m to 132m, well short of the \$250m originally projected and relatively insignificant measured against the \$4.94bn derived from subscription payments.

"As a further comparison, the three national networks - NBC, CBS and ABC - attracted in 1981 an advertising revenue of \$12.7bn: the cable industry's advertising revenue for that year totalled \$129m. On this basis, it is hardly surprising that

Marketing and advertising: Torin Douglas

Worried agencies look to cable TV for a commercial break

only one of the approximately 20 advertising-based cable networks is yet generating any profit."

Instead of simply accepting that the American experience will be repeated here, advertising agencies are arguing that cable operators can learn from what they see as America's mistakes.

For the past two weeks, the agencies' trade body, the Institute of Practitioners in Advertising, has been putting its case in a series of presentations to the 30 or so groups known to be preparing submissions for one of the 12 pilot projects to be licensed by the Home Office this autumn, as well as to some of the companies that will be providing national programme channels for the local operators.

Mr Nicholas Mellerh, chief executive of United Cable Programmes, which intends to launch the sort of high quality, feature film channel that the advertising agencies are anxious to buy airtime on, is impressed by their arguments, but his company has still to decide whether to take commercials.

This week, Mr Mellerh presented his business plan for the service - called TEN, which stands for The Entertainment Network - to the five partners in the United Cable consortium Rediffusion, Visionline, Plessey, Rank Trident, Cable & Satellite, and the American film company UIP. The question of advertising is fully discussed in the plan, he says.

"Advertising is of crucial importance to cable generally because there is a limit to what people will pay for their programming and it will help reduce that cost," says Mr Mellerh. "Whether or not it is right for the premium channels, however, is a different question.

"For example, should you interrupt a feature film with commercials? Some people argue that that ruins the film.

On the other hand, people at home are used to having breaks in a feature film and there is no evidence that they watch less ITV than the BBC because of the ads - on the contrary, 24 of the top 25 feature film audiences on TV last year were

interrupted far less frequently by commercials.

The IPA is urging the cable operators to set up a sophisticated audience research system. As a model, it points to Independent Local Radio which, after 10 years on air, now has a Radio Marketing Bureau and three national sales companies with cable. However, they do not want to wait 10 years for these facilities.

Whatever happens, the advertising agencies are urging the cable companies not to promise customers that there will be no advertising. This is what happened in America and the cable companies are now regretting it, says Mr Peter Todd, media director of David Pearson and chairman of the IPA's Cable Advertising Advisory Group. "It is very difficult to backtrack and allow advertising once you have set your face against it."

Mr Todd believes that there would be no sales benefits for the cable operators in offering channels free of advertising, as there are in America, because British programmes are inter-

rupted far less frequently by commercials.

The IPA is urging the cable operators to do more to support their clients' advantage, but they do not want to commit themselves to supporting it until they see the size of the audience.

The fact is that advertising agencies will welcome any new medium, on the grounds that if it works it is bound to be to their clients' advantage, but they do not want to commit themselves to supporting it until they see the size of the audience.

As the letter from McCann-Erickson warns operators: "Remember that agencies are the guardians of other people's money and therefore cannot fund speculative enterprises. We need a very good case before parting with money."

Nevertheless, it would be a brave cable company that decided it could do without advertising once it was available. As the IPA pointed out in its evidence to the Hunt Committee, the best analogy for cable is not ITV but newspapers and magazines, which get some of their revenue from cover price and some from advertising.

In theory, the IPA says, the price of popular daily newspapers would have to rise by a third if there were no advertising; quality dailies more than double and quality Sundays treble. Would the cable viewer be prepared to bear the equivalent extra in the cost of his subscription?

One stumbling block may be

that the cable operators are obliged to pay

for sales departments and research, since their only source of income is advertising, the cable operators can choose to do without advertising if they feel it is not worth the cost of selling it.

There is the prospect of an impasse in which the advertisers stay off cable because they do not have reliable audience figures and because the sales process is too complex, while the cable operators refuse to provide better back-up services because that is insufficient advertising revenue to justify selling it.

Ultimately, the most crucial question is what level of advertising is "sufficient" to justify cable taking it seriously and on this issue few people are prepared to speculate. The IPA in its presentation to the Hunt Committee last year predicted that cable could attract £120m (at 1980 prices) by 1995, assuming a 50 per cent penetration of homes by then.

Many agencies, however, feel this was unreasonably optimistic and in its presentations to operators this week, the IPA has been refusing to put forward a figure, pointing out instead that display advertising revenue has grown by 25 per cent in real terms in the last 10 years and that television's share of this figure has risen from 36 to 41 per cent. With advertising's share of gross national product also rising, the implication is that cable operators should tap this growing source of income.

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Distillers

Exports exceed £450 million

Extracts from the Statement of the Chairman, Mr. J. R. Cater, and from the Report by the Directors, for the year ended 31st March 1983.

General comments on results

Turnover and profits

The trading profit of £204.3 million was 12.5% higher than last year, reflecting improved results from each of our groups of products.

The increase in the sales value of Scotch whisky and gin, despite a reduction in volume, was assisted by the strength of the US dollar currency in which we invoice our shipments to the US of whiskies bottled in Scotland and Tanqueray Gin. With demand damped by the economic recession, profitability was adversely affected by the relatively low utilisation of production capacity.

The Food Group and the Carbon Dioxide Company achieved increases in both turnover and profit.

The markets served by United Glass, the related company in which we hold a 50% interest, remained depressed. Due to further substantial redundancy payments and facility closure costs, our share of the recorded loss was only slightly less than for the preceding year.

Although UK interest rates were lower than twelve months earlier, the amount of income earned on short term investments and deposits rose by £6 million because of the higher level of our liquid resources.

The taxation charge for the year ended 31st March 1982 was disproportionately lower than the charge for the previous year. The position is now reversed. Following a steep fall in the "all stocks index", the taxation charge for the year compares unfavourably with last year's charge, with the result that the profit after taxation shows an increase of only 1.5% against 12.7% in the profit before taxation.

Dividends

An interim dividend has already been paid at the rate of 4.50p, an increase of 1.50p per share over the preceding four years. The sole purpose of the increase was to narrow the difference between the amounts of the interim and final dividends.

The directors recommend a final dividend of 8.50p per share, making the distribution for the year 13.00p against 11.75p last year.

Scotch whisky production

The export refund scheme for Community cereals, introduced in 1982, operated very satisfactorily throughout the year and enabled us to increase the proportion of Community cereals used. The only worrying aspect is the extent to which it is misunderstood by the British and the European Parliaments. It has been incorrectly seen as a subsidy to the industry. It is not: it is a proper reimbursement of the industry's own money.

Against a background of continued short time working in all Group distilleries, and because sales projections still disclosed an excess of stocks of maturing whisky against estimated future requirements, a decision had to be taken during the latter part of the year to close 11 of the smaller malt distilleries, 2 by-product plants, Carsebridge Grain Distillery and the Maltings at Port Dundas Distillery. The whisky maturation warehouses which form part of the closed distillery premises continued, and will continue, in operation. There are accordingly no immediate plans to dispose of any of these units.

During the year the Company commenced the sale of malted barley, employing the services of outside selling agents, which will enable greater use to be made of our malting capacity.

In a year when the Group's blending and bottling plants produced at a level well below capacity, it was considered essential to rationalise bottling activities in Fife. This resulted in the closure of Haig's outdate plant and the transfer of bottling to Distillers Company (Bottling Services) Ltd.

No new major capital projects were approved during the year but satisfactory progress was made in the completion of existing contracts.

EEC

In February 1983, the French Government finally complied with the European Court's decision of 1980 by removing the last element of tax discrimination against cereal spirits and in favour of wine spirits. In those three years, the French Government levied over £69 million in unlawful taxes on Scotch whisky imports. Simon Frères is continuing its legal actions to recover the unlawful taxes levied on its own sales.

The European Court condemned aspects of the Italian tax system which discriminate against Scotch whisky and gin. The Italian Government has not yet complied with those decisions.

The French Government recently introduced a new tax on spirits with an alcoholic strength of 25% or more, adding some 60p to the retail price of each bottle. This new discrimination makes the total rate of tax on whisky about 35 times higher than that on wine.

SUMMARY OF GROUP RESULTS

year ended 31st March	1983	1982
	£m	£m
Turnover	1,127.2	1,083.9
Trading profit	204.3	181.6
Profit before taxation	200.8	178.2
Profit after taxation	132.9	129.7
Dividends	47.2	42.7
Earnings per share	36.59p	35.72p
Dividends per share	13.00p	11.75p

Direct comparison of industry exports with the preceding year is not possible due to the gap in reliable information for the period between March and August 1981. A comparison for the September/March period of 1982/83 with the same period of the previous year indicates little change in the Group's share of bottles in Scotland shipments. However, an increasing share of sales continued to be taken by very cheap brands imported in bulk. Bulk shipments accounted for a quarter of the Scotch whisky sales in the continental EEC last year, and a growing proportion is being bottled at very low strength.

It is pleasing to record a small increase in the Group's total shipments to the continental EEC markets in 1982/83 compared with the previous year. Johnnie Walker Red Label maintained its strong position with a particularly encouraging performance in France, and Black & White continued to perform well.

The Group's response to the increasing complexity and competitiveness of these markets is to strive to optimise coverage by Group brands of each individual market and to strengthen those brands through increased and selective investment in advertising and other brand-building activities. In this way the Group will be best able to benefit from any future upturn in economic conditions within the EEC.

Home sales

Figures for the year showed a decline of 5.3% in clearances of Scotch whisky in the UK, with the Group's share of the total remaining stable.

Johnnie Walker Black Label and White Horse performed well. The Claymore increased sales substantially, which was encouraging in the face of the continuing growth of private labels owned by major retailing groups. Haig persisted in a policy aimed to position the brand in the prestige sector of the market. The new arrangements for the marketing of Dewar's by Hedges & Butler made a satisfactory start.

An extensive review of the Group's sales and marketing activities in the UK will result in fundamental changes which will enable the Group to operate more efficiently.

In the last two years, reference has been made to the application to the EEC Commission for approval of a price structure for the UK market which would permit a number of Group brands, including Johnnie Walker Red Label, to compete effectively in the UK as well as in export markets. The decision continues to be awaited.

During the year the Chancellor extended a concession on credit for the payment of duty similar to that which has been allowed for a number of years on certain other alcoholic beverages. Although the percentage rate of duty increase imposed in the Budget was slightly less than the rate of inflation, taxation on spirits compared with wine and beer remained grossly inequitable.

Exports

The volume of Group shipments in the year was slightly down on the previous year, but profits improved by 14%.

This improved financial performance was due to price increases and to the strength of the dollar during the second six months of the year when shipments to the US almost exactly matched those of the equivalent six months of the previous year.

Because of the lack of HM Customs & Excise statistics of industry exports of Scotch whisky referred to above, it has not been possible to compare industry shipments of blended Scotch whisky during the twelve months ended 31st March 1982 and 1983. The statistics for the seven months ended 31st March 1983 indicate that the Group's share of industry shipments had declined mainly as a result of the substantial growth of bulk shipments of blended Scotch whisky at extremely low prices. Industry exports of bulk malt whisky continued at a high level, but the Group does not participate in this trade which is considered to be damaging to the long-term interests of the industry.

In December 1982 price increases were announced for our export trade with the exception of UK-bottled Scotch whiskies destined for the US. However, because of the economic problems in a number of key markets, the buy-in was less than last year.

Group shipments to the US were marginally below last year's. Trade sources estimate that the volume of Scotch whisky entering retail channels was down by 6% during 1982 and there is every indication that the Group maintained market share. The recent slight upturn in the US economy is not yet being reflected in spirit sales. Dewar's White Label had another good year and Johnnie Walker Red Label and Black Label performed satisfactorily. Most of our brands bottled in the US registered increased depletions to the trade. Usher's Green Stripe and VAT 69 Gold were our leading brands in this category.

The Group's trade with South and Central America was seriously affected by devaluation of currencies, loss of oil revenue and political unrest. Less was shipped to Venezuela and, as a result of devaluation and import restrictions, despatches will be adversely affected in the current year. The Group continued to have a major portion of the Scotch whisky trade in this market with its diverse brands.

The Group had an excellent year in Spain. Trade was very satisfactory in certain Far Eastern countries and in a number of volatile Middle Eastern markets. Shipments to Japan were increased; White Horse maintained its leading position and Old Parr continued to make encouraging progress. Two new brands - White Horse Extra Fine and Johnnie Walker Old Harmony - produced exclusively for the Japanese market were first shipped towards the end of the year and initial sales have been encouraging.

A severe downturn in shipments to West Africa was the main reason for the decline in business with the African Continent. Sales in Australia and New Zealand were seriously affected by economic conditions.

Gin

Production at Wandsworth Distillery was maintained at close to maximum capacity and Tanqueray Gordon's operations continued at normal levels. As a result of reduced demand, Booth's operated well below capacity. The new bottling facility under construction at Basildon made

good progress and should be on stream, as scheduled, by the end of 1983. Preliminary commissioning of the plant and equipment is already under way. As recently announced, it is planned to transfer the bottling of Booth's gin and Cossack Vodka to Basildon in 1984.

The economic recession continued to depress the market for gin in the UK and to encourage the growth of cheaper brands, particularly those owned by major retail interests. It is therefore encouraging to report that sales of Gordon's exceeded those of the previous year and the brand maintained its strong position as market leader. Although Booth's Finest Dry Gin lost further market share in the year, sales of High & Dry Gin again made a useful contribution to the Group's performance.

After two exceptionally good years, when previous records were broken, export sales of Gordon's declined, primarily as a result of import restrictions in West Africa, a major export market. Gordon's and High & Dry increased shipments to France which continued its promising development as a gin market. Gordon's fared well in the markets in which it is produced locally, and the success of the brand in Spain merits special mention. There was, however, some loss of ground in the US and in New Zealand.

Exports of Tanqueray Gin to the US continued to grow steadily and the brand further consolidated its position of strength in the imported gin category. Shipments to other export markets also improved and of particular note was the performance in Canada.

Other portable products

Cossack Vodka experienced considerable pressure in the UK. However, the brand, with a recently introduced new bottle and label, is expected to make headway in the future.

Sales of Gordon's Vodka in the US, where it is produced locally, remained solid.

Cognac Hine achieved a significant increase in profits. During the year Hine acquired Denis Mounie Cognac SARL which owns the potentially valuable Denis Mounie and Comandon brands of cognac.

Food Group

The Food Group had an excellent year, during which increased sales and improved production techniques contributed to higher profits.

The Peerless Refining Company continued to suffer from adverse conditions and a proposal to purchase this company, received from Acatos & Hutchison Ltd, was accepted.

Carbon dioxide

Carbon dioxide sales showed a small increase during the year. A high volume of plant installation business, particularly overseas, improved profitability on the engineering side and overall profits increased.

United Glass

Demand fell sharply with particularly adverse effects on the Glass Container Division. Although trading profits improved, redundancy payments and other costs of facility closures rose. The result was a reduction in the overall loss from £5.2 million in 1981 to £5.3 million.

Trading conditions worsened in the first quarter of 1983 and further steps have recently been announced to restore a reasonable balance between production and demand.

Personnel

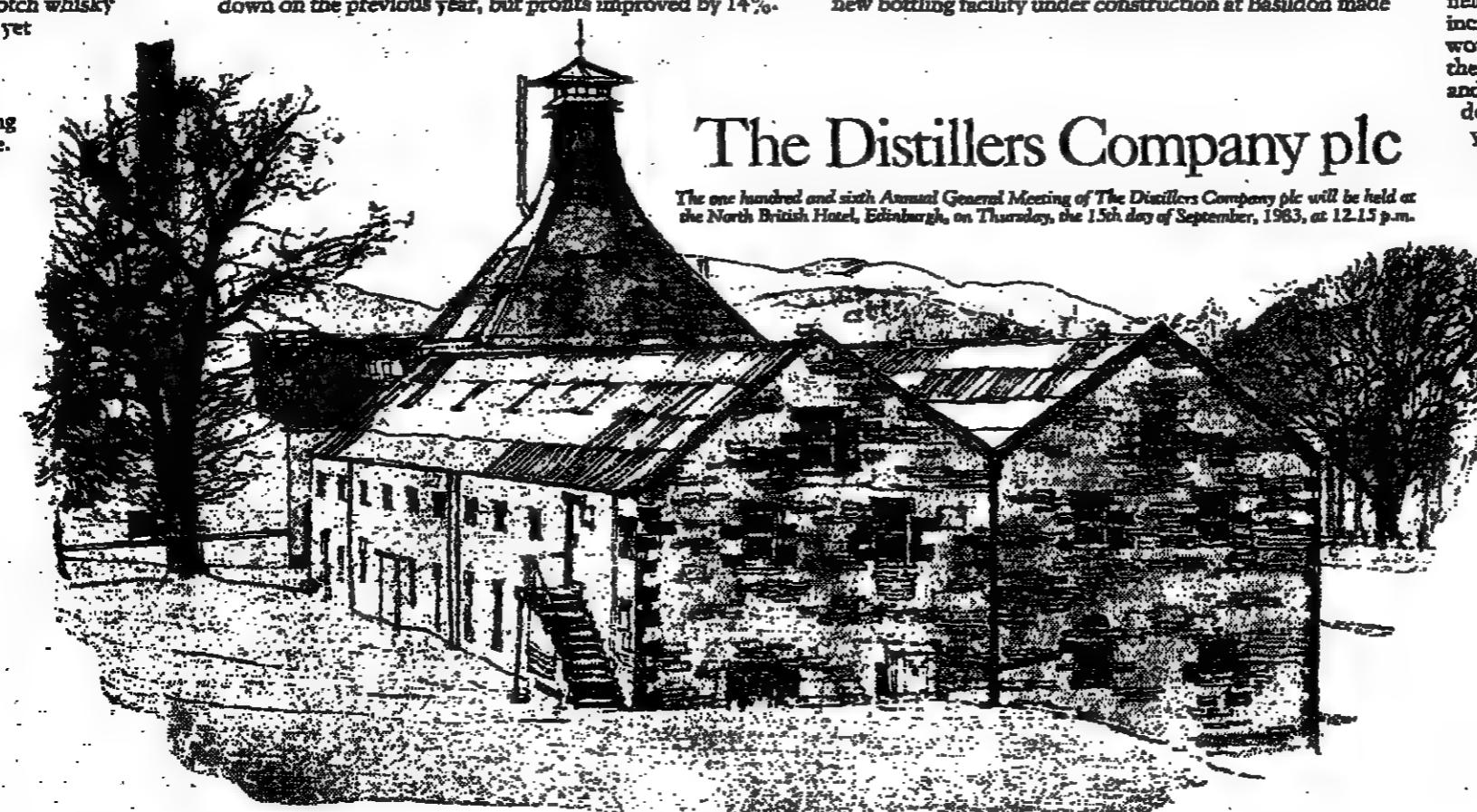
The year was relatively free of local industrial disputes. The Group's employees worked hard to help to achieve the year's results in difficult trading conditions and the Board expresses its sincere appreciation of their efforts.

Future prospects

The Directors' Report highlights the difficult trading conditions prevailing in a number of important export markets, and stresses that the apparent improved consumer confidence in the United States is not yet being reflected in spirit sales. An intensely competitive situation continues to prevail not only within the spirits industry but in the wider field of alcoholic beverages generally, and recent price increases in export markets have had to take account of what would be commercially sustainable. Against that background the current year cannot be viewed as one of great promise and, with the experience of fifteen weeks behind us, we do not expect the volume of sales to match that of last year. In the absence of any significant upturn in world markets, therefore, present indications are that the results for the current year are unlikely to reach those we are now presenting.

The Distillers Company plc

The one hundred and sixth Annual General Meeting of The Distillers Company plc will be held at the North British Hotel, Edinburgh, on Thursday, the 15th day of September, 1983, at 12.15 p.m.



RACING: \$220,000 VIDEO EQUIPMENT USED FOR THE FIRST TIME

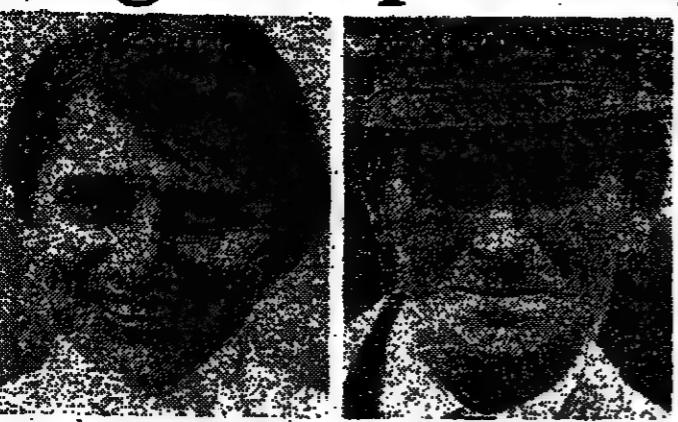
Stewards get help in disqualifying Soba

By Michael Seely

Habibi showed herself to be the fastest horse in Europe when comprehensively outpacing Soba in the William Hill spring championship at York yesterday. Unfortunately, Soba, the darling of the Yorkshire crowd was found by the steward to have crossed 'Crime of Passion' shortly after the start. She was disqualified and placed last. David Nichols, her jockey, said: 'I knew something was wrong when I heard the other riders shouting "behind me". Nichols was found guilty of careless riding and was suspended for five days, the sentence to run from August 27 to September 1 inclusive.

The incident was highlighted on the camera patrol film. The clarity of the video recording was made possible by the new £220,000 development which was used at the meeting for the first time. The stewards were able to watch a recording of the race, played backwards and forwards, at any speed they wanted. 'Thank God for this new process,' Lt-Col Tom Ingles, the senior steward's secretary, said. 'They would never have been able to study the race so closely otherwise.'

Soba was drawn in stall 10, nearest to the rails. The filly broke smartly and Nichols started in edge to his left.



Winners and losers: Carson (left) and Dunlop (centre), jockey and trainer of Habibi.

Nicholls, jockey of the disqualified Soba.

presumably in order to obtain what he considered to be the better ground. This lateral movement caused a chain reaction. 'Crime of Passion' bumped into Kind Minnie and lost whatever chance she had of winning. As far as the stewards considered Nichols to be guilty of causing this incident, which decision could possibly be interpreted as being rather kind - they had no alternative but to invoke rule 153 and place his mount, Soba, behind any horse to which he might have caused interference. This, of course, meant putting the filly down to last position.

The same thing happened at Goodwood recently when Vacare was disqualified after his victory in the Richmond Stakes. The critics of the rule think that the jockey should be

penalized on these occasions, but that the horse and his owner and the betting public should be allowed to retain the spoils of victory.

Unfortunately, both the horse and the jockey are involved together in the business of winning a race and it is only right that any transgression by either party should be punished. It is a hard rule, but fair.

Interesting as this affair was it should not be allowed to overshadow the stirring nature of Habibi's win. Just as when beating Soba in the July cup, Habibi was dominating his race throughout. She will now

Maximova in form

From Desmond Stoeness

Desnerville, Ontario

either the Champagne Stakes at Doncaster or the Royal Lodge stakes at Ascot.

Cecil's last word yesterday concerned the Derby runner-up Carlingford Castle who has just joined my stable after being bought recently by Sheikh Mohammed.

He is very well indeed, you mark my words, and will be on to a winner before long, on to see that Carlingford Castle will not have a preparatory race for the St Leger.

Habibi was a gallant head second and then came the long time leader African Joy, Prince Reymo, Celestial Dancer and Nicholls. The fifth English challenger, Diamond Cutler, finished a disappointing last.

Croquette Head blames the use of blankets on Maximova's poor performance in the William Hill July Cup at Newmarket and the same is true for the Prix de Diane at Chantilly on Monday.

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DEATHS

BIRTHS, MARRIAGES, DEATHS AND IN MEMORIAM £2.50 a line
minimum 3 lines
Announcements authenticated by the sender and permanent address of the sender to be inserted.

THE TIMES

200 Gray's Inn Road

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or telephone 01-537 3331

or 01-537 3333

Announcements can be received by telephone between 9.00am and 5.30pm, Monday to Friday on Saturday between 9.00am and 1.00pm. For publication the following day, phone by 3.30pm. FORTHCOMING MARRIAGES, WEDDINGS, ETC. £3 a line, Court and Social Page. £1.50 a line. £1.80-£2.00. Announcements can be received by telephone in London to be announced later.

MEMORIAL SERVICES

WIGAN - On 27th August at St. Peter's Church, Wigan. Mr. and Mrs. John and Patricia and son of Padys and Cecilia. Funeral service at St. Peter's Church, Wigan. Burial at St. Peter's Cemetery, Wigan. Flowers only please. Donations if desired to St. Peter's Church, Wigan.

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IN MEMORIAM

REINER, JAMES - In memory of his wife, the late Mrs. Doreen, 19th August 1971. John Cyril and Bill.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

JOIN THE CAMPAIGN AGAINST CANCER

Join the Campaign Against Cancer and help us make a real contribution towards reducing the incidence of cancer and the cost of its treatment. Your support is essential in the fight against cancer. Please support us in all forms of cancer research and in the campaign against cancer.

DOBSON - On 27th August 1983 at Castle Apartments, 2nd Floor, 100 Grosvenor Gardens, London SW1. John Dobson, 82, a son, a brother and a father.

BROKERSHIRE - On August 27th at the Royal Free Hospital, Oxford. Dr. John Brokershires, 82, a son, a brother and a father.

LANGLEY - On 27th August, 1983 at the Royal Free Hospital, London. Dr. John Langley, 82, a son, a brother and a father.

LAVERY - On July 28 1983 at Merton Hospital, Sutton. Mrs. Lavery, 82, a son, a daughter and a daughter.

LESTER - On 16th August 1983 at a nursing home, 200, Heath, a wife, a son and a daughter.

NOBLE - On 26th August 1983 in London. Dr. John Noble, 82, a son, a brother and a father.

PEPPER - On 27th August 1983 at a nursing home, 200, Heath, a wife, a son and a daughter.

PRINCE - On August 27th at a nursing home, 200, Heath, a wife, a son and a daughter.

REINER, JAMES - In memory of his wife, the late Mrs. Doreen, 19th August 1971. John Cyril and Bill.

SMALLEY - On August 27th at St. Paul's Church, Sutton. Mrs. Ethel Smalley, 82, a son, a daughter and a daughter.

SMITH - On 27th August 1983 at St. Paul's Church, Sutton. Mrs. Ethel Smith, 82, a son, a daughter and a daughter.

SWANSON - On August 27th at St. Paul's Church, Sutton. Mrs. Ethel Swanson, 82, a son, a daughter and a daughter.

TABONE - On Monday 14th August at the Royal Free Hospital, London. Dr. Leonard Tabone, 82, a son, a daughter and a daughter.

BIRTHDAYS

ANN. Happy Birthday my Jolia, my Sonja, my husband, my wife, my wife with love to you all.

MARRIAGES

ZHONG, HARRIE - The marriage took place in Peking on 12th August 1983 in Nien Hsien, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. John and Chen Hui Hui in Edinburgh and Chen Hui Hui of Peking.

GOLDEN WEDDING

CASHIEL, KINMONT - On August 19th 1953, the Parish Church, Kinmont, Northumberland. G. and M. Cashiel.

TACON-HAGUE - On August 19th 1953, St. Paul's Church, John to Bob.

TOWNSEND, HODGSON - On August 19th 1953, St. Mary's Church, Hornsey, London. John and Elizabeth Townsend to Townsend and Hodgeson.

DEATHS

CYTHE - On August 19th, peacefully at the Royal Marsden Hospital, Sutton, Surrey. Mrs. Cyril Cythe, 82, a son, a daughter and a granddaughter.

DWAR - Husband of Betty Dwar.

THOMAS - On August 19th, 1983 at Bournemouth Road, Kingston upon Hull. Dr. Thomas, 82, a son, a daughter and a granddaughter.

HAWES - On August 19th at home, 200, Heath, a wife, a son, a daughter and a granddaughter.

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Town where the America's Cup runneth over

From Trevor Fishlock
Newport, Rhode Island

It is an ancient mariner, his head a block of teak carved with a rusty chisel. "I'll tell you what the America's Cup is all about", he threatened in a voice made sandpaper by salt and cigarettes. But his words are lost as the jazz band on the jetty strikes up to greet the yachts returning from their day's jousting, and the groups move forward to be nearer the crews.

All the nice girls love a sailor, and in cap year hearts melt faster than the butter almond ice cream, flavoured of the month along Thames Street, which Rhode Islanders pronounce Thaymes, just to be different.

Newport is a fine old town with seventeenth-century roots, George Washington's pew in one of the churches and pretty painted wooden houses in streets that seem like sets built for a sea-going film epic. It is, inevitably, a place where shops are called Shoppes.

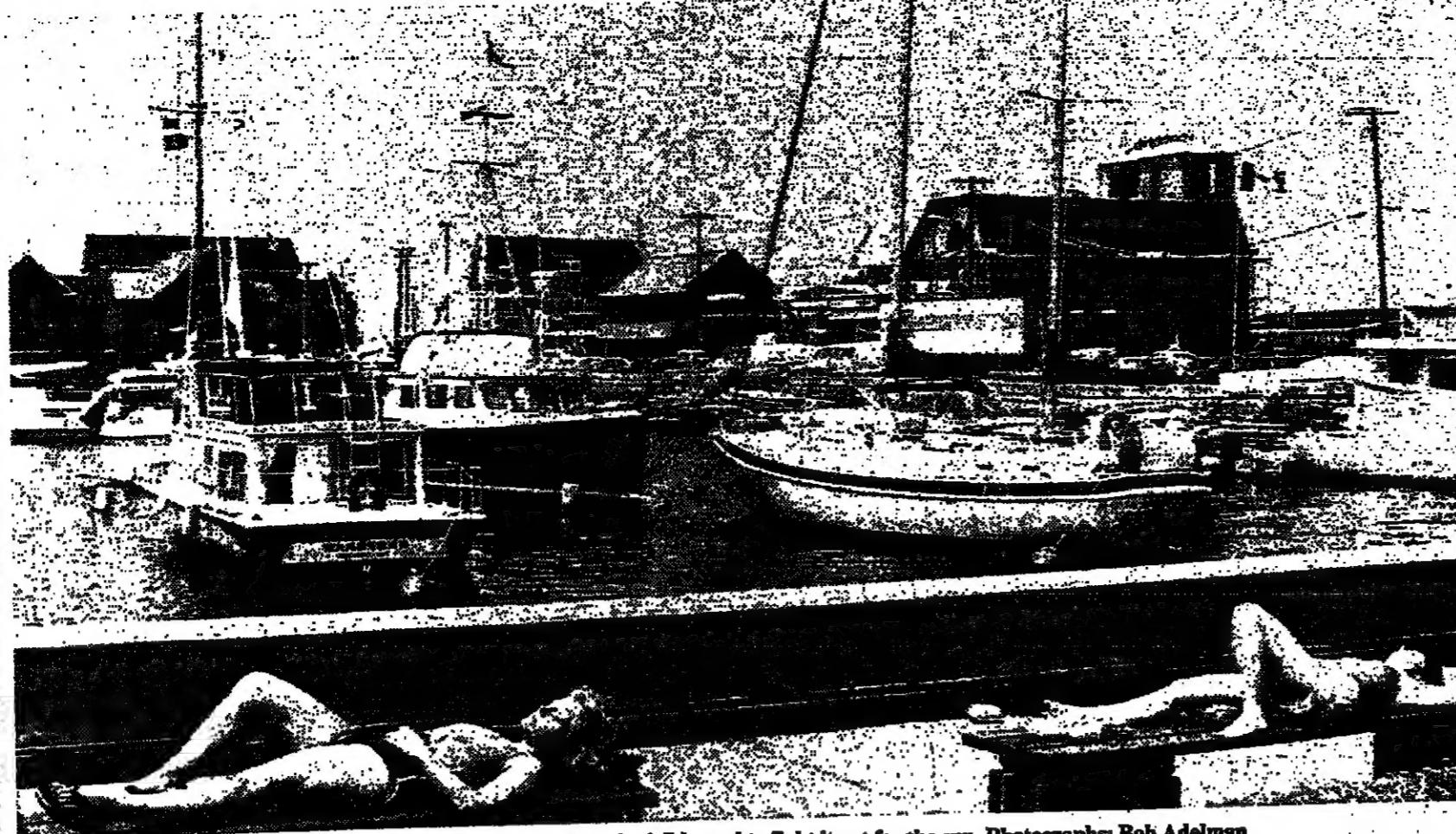
In its day it was a fortress of American class consciousness, where fearsome society enforces condemned unsuitable aspirants to the elite as "not at ease in a ballroom".

Here the super-rich, like the Vanderbilts and Astors, built their holiday mansions overlooking Long Island Sound. And when the America's Cup competition moves here from New York in 1980, the combination of money, high society and gold-plated yachting, as well as the town's sublime situation, assured Newport's place as a magnet and famous resort.

The America's Cup is a major industry, and the economy here is partly built around the triennial challenges. Thousands flock here to imbibe the atmosphere created by what is essentially a non-spectator sport conducted out of their sight several miles out to sea. Some people go out to see the yachts in action, rather like making a safari in search of a rare animal, but most only see the yachts when they leave in the morning and return to their docks in the afternoon.

Twelve-metre yacht racing is the most costly of sports. The British challenge for the Cup, for example, is costing about £2m. And, in a variation of what Archimedes discovered, the yachts displace a lot of money which slops into the town to support hotels, restaurants, bars, shops and galleries selling yachty prints and other knick-knacks.

Boutiques along America's Cup Avenue and 12-metre Mall sell thousands of T-shirts. The intense rivalries and loyalties here have made the T-shirt a modern version of heraldic knacks.



A place in the Newport sun for some, while invisible yachts fight it out for the cup. Photographs: Bob Adelman

devices, and Newport is a T-shirt town.

It has to be said that while thousands of people are milling about reading each other's chests, eating clams and drinking America's Cup White, a cheeky, if rather thin little wine, there are many men here taking life very seriously indeed.

Crews are battle ready and as dedicated as commandos, their muscles hard after long months of training and their team spirit sharpened by coaches and psychologists.

Tensions are particularly taut this year because America's hold on a trophy it has never lost in the 132-year history of the competition has never been so seriously threatened. The teeth are being bared.

On present form the Australians are favourites to beat Britain for the right to take on the Americans in the final showdown next month. The Americans are worried because the Australians have closed the technology gap with a controversial delta-winged keel. The Americans think may not be kosher and which they are still trying to have ruled illegal.

There is a lot of huffing and psychological warfare in America's Cup racing and the Australians are revelling in the fuss their secret weapon has for the purpose.

canced. The Fosters lager flag flying over their dock has the look of the Jolly Roger. The Australians still put a modest skirt around the keel when the yacht is hauled out of the water each evening, and have posted guards to stop peeks.

Naturally you can buy a "secret keel" T-shirt.

The seriousness of this year's challenge offers a conundrum. The British and Australian hopefuls are more competitive than any previous challengers and are in a long line of challengers who over the years have spent millions of pounds to win the ugly old pot. But the quintessence and mystique of the competition lies in the fact that the Americans have never lost the cup. It may be sentimental to say so, but if the Australians win the America's Cup the competition will never be the same again. Much of its magic will have vanished like the money spent to get it.

Newport, the America's Cup city, would be appalled. The traders would be downcast. And imagine the feelings of an American skipper who lost the America's Cup. The Americans would probably want to keep him blind and would no doubt ask the Australians if they could borrow their controversial keel for the purpose.



Ancient mariner stands firm among the T-shirts.

Today's events

New exhibitions

The Last Beduin of Jordan, the Astley Chandelier art gallery, Trinity Street, Saltaire; Tues to Fri 1 to 8, Sat 9 to 4 (until Oct 6).

Man and Music, Royal Scottish Museum, Chamber Street, Edinburgh; Mon to Sat 10 to 5, Sun 2 to 5 (until Jan 15, 1984).

So this is what we do with the lead, Peak District Museum, Pump Room, Pavillion, Matlock Bath, Derbyshire; daily 11 to 5 (until Sept 11).

Action Portraits, Scottish press

Oil Paintings by Kenneth Wynn, Arkle, Tres House, 9 Fore Street, Bideford Salterton, Devon; Tues to Sat 10 to 5 (until Sept 3).

Man and Music, Royal Scottish Museum, Chamber Street, Edinburgh; Mon to Sat 10 to 5, Sun 2 to 5 (until Jan 15, 1984).

So this is what we do with the lead, Peak District Museum, Pump Room, Pavillion, Matlock Bath, Derbyshire; daily 11 to 5 (until Sept 11).

Action Portraits, Scottish press

The pound

Bank	Bank
Buys	Sells
1.79	1.71
29.20	27.65
83.25	79.25
1.93	1.85
14.92	14.22
8.92	8.52
12.39	11.84
4.13	3.93
145.00	133.00
11.60	10.95
1.31	1.25
2465.50	2340.00
350.00	367.00
4.52	4.40
189.00	179.00
1.99	1.84
232.50	221.50
12.28	11.68
3.37	3.20
1.56	1.51
156.00	144.00

Rate for small denominations bank note only, as supplied yesterday by Barclays Bank International Ltd. Different rates apply to travel cheques and other foreign currency transfers.

Retail Price Index: 336.5

London's FT Index closed up 2.9

73.8

Rate for small denominations bank note only, as supplied yesterday by Barclays Bank International Ltd. Different rates apply to travel cheques and other foreign currency transfers.

Retail Price Index: 336.5

London's FT Index closed up 2.9

73.8

Roads

London and South-east A406: Single lane traffic on either carriageway on North Circular Road, Edmonton stop and go boards on High Street, Rayleigh, Essex M26: single lane carriageway between Sevenoaks and M20 interchange at Wrotham.

M25: M2: One carriageway

shared between junctions 10 and 11 (Walsham and Cannock); M1: One carriageway shared between junctions 15 and 16, Northampton.

A49/A46: Diversion at Selby Roundabout.

Wales and West: A449: Single

lane traffic north of Usk; A48: Lane closure at Marsh Mills Viaduct, Plymouth A4044: Diversion

shared between junctions 10 and 11 (Walsham and Cannock); M1: One

carriageway shared between junctions 15 and 16, Northampton.

A46: Diversion at Selby Roundabout.

Midlands: M1: One carriageway

shared between junctions 10 and 11 (Walsham and Cannock); M1: One

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